

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
17 March 2005 (17.03.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/023257 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: A61K 31/439, C07D 453/02

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US2004/028159

(22) International Filing Date: 30 August 2004 (30.08.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: 60/499,781 3 September 2003 (03.09.2003) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

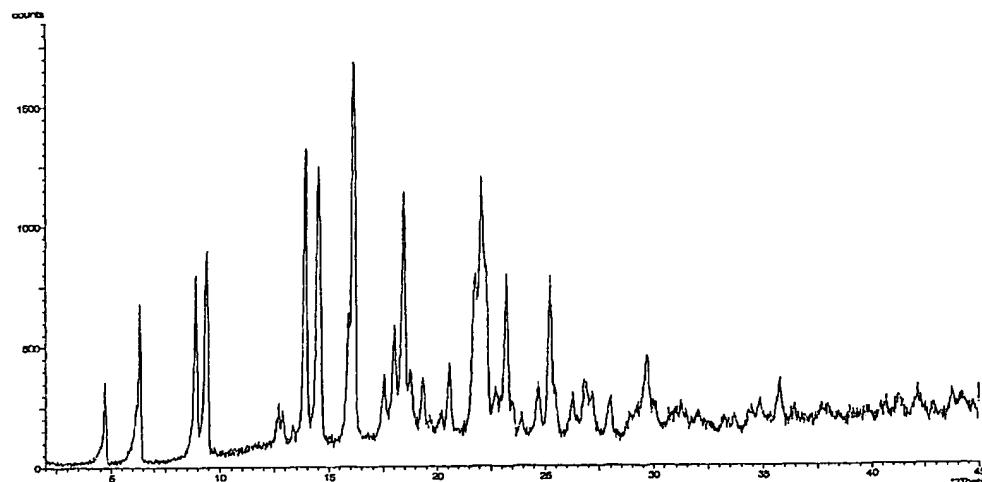
Published:

— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: NOVEL PROCESS, SALTS, COMPOSITIONS AND USE

WO 2005/023257 A1



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a novel process for preparing pleuromutilin derivatives, novel salts of mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or solvates thereof, novel pharmaceutical compositions or formulations for topical administration comprising mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and their use in medical therapy, particularly antibacterial therapy.



- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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NOVEL PROCESS, SALTS, COMPOSITIONS AND USE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

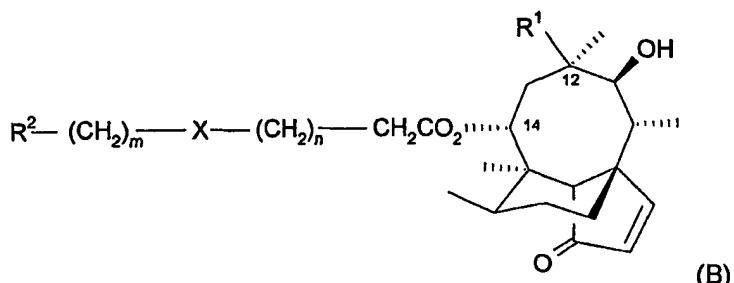
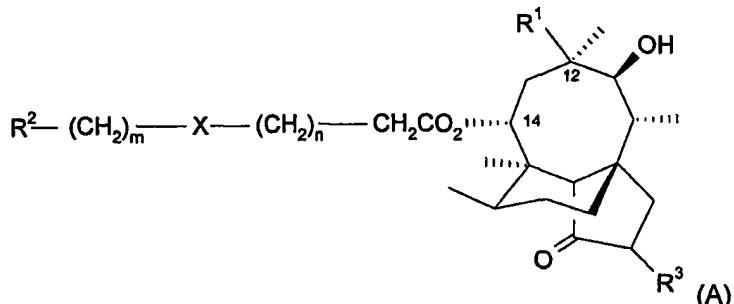
The present invention relates to a novel process for preparing pleuromutilin derivatives, to novel salts of mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or solvates thereof, to novel pharmaceutical compositions or formulations for topical administration comprising mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and to their use in medical therapy, particularly antibacterial therapy.

10

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

International patent application no. WO99/21855 (SmithKline Beecham plc and SmithKline Beecham Corporation) describes pleuromutilin derivatives of general formula (A) or (B):

15



20 in which:

each of n and m is independently 0, 1 or 2;

X is selected from -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -SO2-, -CO.O-, -NH-, -CONH-, -NHCONH- and a bond;

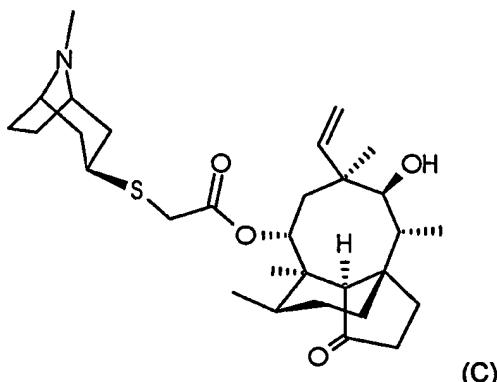
R¹ is vinyl or ethyl;

25 R² is a non-aromatic monocyclic or bicyclic group containing one or two basic nitrogen atoms and attached through a ring carbon atom;

R³ is H or OH; or

the moiety $R^2(CH_2)_mX(CH_2)_nCH_2COO$ at position 14 of (IA) or (IB) is replaced by $R^aR^bC=CHCOO$ in which one of R^a and R^b is hydrogen and the other is R^2 or R^a and R^b together form R^2 , or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5 One of the compounds described in WO99/21855 is the compound of formula (C), mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate:



10 Two processes for the preparation of this compound are described in Examples 50 and 58 of WO99/21855. In the first process, mutilin 14-methanesulfonyloxyacetate is added to *endo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octan-3-thiol in the presence of potassium t-butoxide in ethanol, to give the product in a yield of 17% based on the amount of pleuromutilin derived starting material, after purification. The thiol was 15 prepared from the corresponding hydroxy compound via the corresponding thioacetate. In the second process, the methane sulfonate leaving group is located on the methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octyl component which is added to 22-deoxy-22-sulfanylpleuromutilin in the presence of sodium methoxide, to give the product in a yield of 27% based on the amount of pleuromutilin derived starting material, after 20 purification.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a novel process for preparing pleuromutilin derivatives, novel salts of mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or solvates thereof, novel pharmaceutical compositions or formulations for topical administration comprising mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and their use in medical therapy, particularly antibacterial therapy.

30 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1 is an infra-red spectrum of crystalline mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate measured by ATR (attenuated total reflectance).

5 Figure 2 is a DSC thermogram of crystalline mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

Figure 3 is an XRPD pattern of crystalline mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

10 Figure 4 is an infra-red spectrum of the crystalline hydrosuccinate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate measured by ATR (attenuated total reflectance).

Figure 5 is a DSC thermogram of the crystalline hydrosuccinate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

Figure 6 is an XRPD pattern of the crystalline hydrosuccinate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

15 Figure 7 is an infra-red spectrum of the crystalline hydrofumarate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate measured by ATR (attenuated total reflectance).

Figure 8 is a DSC thermogram of the crystalline hydrofumarate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

20 Figure 9 is an XRPD pattern of the crystalline hydrofumarate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

Figure 10 is an infra-red spectrum of the crystalline hydromaleate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate measured by ATR (attenuated total reflectance).

25 Figure 11 is a DSC thermogram of the crystalline hydromaleate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

Figure 12 is an XRPD pattern of the crystalline hydromaleate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

30 Figure 13 is an infra-red spectrum of the crystalline tosylate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate measured by ATR (attenuated total reflectance).

Figure 14 is a DSC thermogram of the crystalline tosylate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

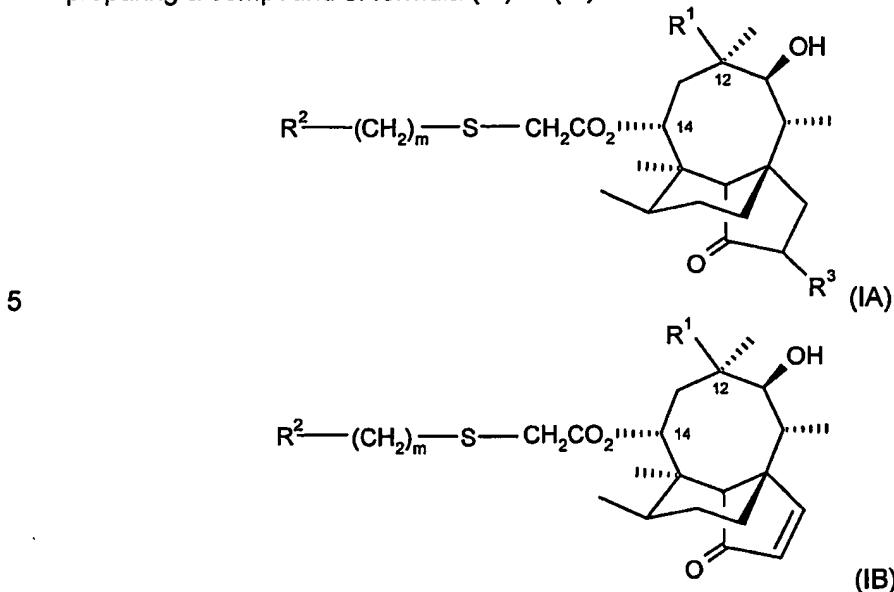
35 Figure 15 is an XRPD pattern of the crystalline tosylate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

According to a first aspect of the present invention we have found a novel process for preparing pleuromutilin derivatives using a thiol in a phase transfer 40 catalysis system. The phase transfer catalysis process provides a more efficient

synthesis, with improved yield, and avoids a chromatography step to purify the reaction product.

Thus in one embodiment the present invention provides a process for preparing a compound of formula (IA) or (IB):



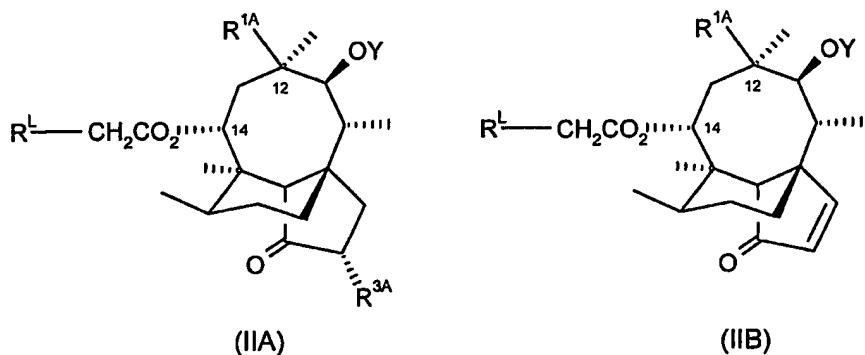
in which:

m is 0, 1 or 2;

R¹ is vinyl or ethyl;

10 R² is an optionally substituted non-aromatic monocyclic or bicyclic group containing one or two basic nitrogen atoms and attached through a ring carbon atom;
 R³ is H or OH; or
 a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof;

15 which process comprises reacting a compound of formula (IIA) or (IIB):



in which:

20 Y is hydrogen or a hydroxy protecting group;

R^{1A} and R^{3A} are R¹ and R³ as defined for formulae (IA) and (IB) or groups convertible to R¹ and R³; and
 R^L is a leaving group, OH or NH₂;

5 with a thiol compound of formula (III):



in which:

10 R^{2A} is R² as defined for formulae (IA) and (IB) or a group convertible to R², and
 m is as defined for formulae (IA) and (IB);
 in a phase transfer catalysis system;
 and thereafter, where required or desired,
 converting Y to hydrogen,
 15 converting an R^{1A}, R^{2A} or R^{3A} group to an R¹, R² or R³ group, and/or
 converting one R¹, R² or R³ group to another R¹, R² or R³ group.
 Preferably, m is 0 or 1. In particular, m is 0.
 Preferably, R¹ and R^{1A} are vinyl.
 Preferably, R^{2A} is R². When R² is monocyclic, it typically contains from 4 to 8
 20 ring atoms, and, when bicyclic, it typically contains from 5 to 10 ring atoms in each
 ring, and is optionally substituted by up to 3 substituents. Suitable substituents include
 alkyl, alkyloxy, alkenyl and alkenyloxy, each of which may be carried by either a
 bridgehead or a non-bridgehead atom. In addition, the or each nitrogen atom may be
 substituted by oxygen, to form an N-oxide, or by mono- or dialkyl, in which case it will
 25 be appreciated that a quaternary cation can be formed. The counterion may be a
 halide ion such as chloride or bromide, preferably chloride. The aza ring system
 additionally may contain one or more double bonds.
 Representative bicyclic and monocyclic groups for R² include piperidinyl,
 30 pyrrolidyl, quinuclidinyl (azabicyclo[2.2.2]octyl), azabicyclo[2.2.1]heptyl,
 azabicyclo[4.3.0]nonyl, azabicyclo[3.2.1]octyl, azabicyclo[3.3.0]octyl,
 azabicyclo[3.2.1]octenyl, azabicyclo[3.3.1]nonyl and azabicyclo[4.4.0]decyl, all of
 which may be substituted or unsubstituted.
 Preferably, R² is a bicyclic group. More preferably, R² is azabicyclo[3.2.1]octyl
 optionally substituted by alkyl, in particular exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-yl.
 35 Preferably, R³ and R^{3A} are hydrogen.
 Preferably, R^L is a leaving group. Examples of suitable leaving groups include
 4-CH₃C₆H₄SO₂O (tosylate), CH₃SO₂O (mesylate), F₃CSO₂O, I, Br and Cl. Preferably, the leaving group is CH₃SO₂O.
 When used herein, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable" means a
 40 compound which is suitable for pharmaceutical use. Salts and solvates of the
 compounds prepared according to the process of the invention which are suitable for

use in medicine are those wherein the counterion or associated solvent is pharmaceutically acceptable. However, salts and solvates having non-pharmaceutically acceptable counterions or associated solvents are within the scope of the present invention, for example, for use as intermediates in the preparation of 5 other compounds of the invention and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates.

When used herein, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable derivative", means any pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or prodrug e.g. ester, of a compound, which upon administration to the recipient is capable of providing (directly or 10 indirectly) a compound of the invention, or an active metabolite or residue thereof. Such derivatives are recognizable to those skilled in the art, without undue experimentation. Nevertheless, reference is made to the teaching of Burger's Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery, 5th Edition, Vol 1: Principles and Practice, which is incorporated herein by reference to the extent of teaching such derivatives. 15 Preferred pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives are salts, solvates, esters, carbamates and phosphate esters. Particularly preferred pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives are salts, solvates and esters. Most preferred pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives are salts and esters, especially salts.

The compounds prepared according to the process of the present invention 20 may be in the form of and/or may be administered as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt. For a review on suitable salts see Berge *et al.*, J. Pharm. Sci., 1977, 66, 1-19.

Typically, a pharmaceutical acceptable salt may be readily prepared by using a desired acid or base as appropriate. The salt may precipitate from solution and be collected by filtration or may be recovered by evaporation of the solvent.

25 Salts of the compounds prepared according to the process of the present invention may, for example, comprise acid addition salts resulting from reaction of an acid with a basic nitrogen atom present in a compound of formula (IA) or (IB). Salts encompassed within the term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" refer to non-toxic salts of the compounds of this invention. Suitable addition salts are formed from 30 acids which form non-toxic salts and examples include acetate, p-aminobenzoate, ascorbate, aspartate, benzenesulfonate, benzoate, bicarbonate, bismethylenesalicylate, bisulfate, bitartrate, borate, calcium edetate, camsylate, carbonate, clavulanate, citrate, cyclohexylsulfamate, dihydrochloride, edetate, edisylate, estolate, esylate, ethanedisulfonate, ethanesulfonate, formate, fumarate, 35 gluceptate, gluconate, glutamate, glycollate, glycolylarsanilate, hexylresorcinate, hydrabamine, hydrobromide, hydrochloride, hydrofumarate, hydrogen phosphate, hydroiodide, hydromaleate, hydrosuccinate, hydroxynaphthoate, isethionate, itaconate, lactate, lactobionate, laurate, malate, maleate, mandelate, mesylate, methylbromide, methylnitrate, methylsulfate, monopotassium maleate, mucate, 40 napsylate, nitrate, N-methylglucamine, oxalate, oxaloacetate, pamoate (embonate), palmitate, palmitate, pantothenate, phosphate/diphosphate, piruvate,

polygalacturonate, propionate, saccharate, salicylate, stearate, subacetate, succinate, sulfate, tannate, tartrate, teoclolate, tosylate, triethylsulfide, trifluoroacetate and valerate.

Pharmaceutically acceptable base salts include ammonium salts such as a

5 trimethylammonium salt, alkali metal salts such as those of sodium and potassium, alkaline earth metal salts such as those of calcium and magnesium and salts with organic bases, including salts of primary, secondary and tertiary amines, such as isopropylamine, diethylamine, ethanolamine, trimethylamine, dicyclohexyl amine and N-methyl-D-glucamine.

10 Compounds prepared according to the invention having both a basic and acidic centre (carboxy substituent) may be in the form of zwitterions, acid-addition salt of the basic centre or alkali metal salts (of the carboxy group).

Those skilled in the art of organic chemistry will appreciate that many organic compounds can form complexes with solvents in which they are reacted or from

15 which they are precipitated or crystallized. These complexes are known as "solvates". For example, a complex with water is known as a "hydrate". Solvates of the compound of the invention are within the scope of the invention. This invention includes within its scope stoichiometric hydrates as well as compounds containing variable amounts of water.

20 When used herein, the term "prodrug" means a compound which is converted within the body, e.g. by hydrolysis in the blood, into its active form that has medical effects. Pharmaceutically acceptable prodrugs are described in T. Higuchi and V. Stella, *Prodrugs as Novel Delivery Systems*, Vol. 14 of the A.C.S. Symposium Series, Edward B. Roche, ed.; *Bioreversible Carriers in Drug Design*, American

25 Pharmaceutical Association and Pergamon Press, 1987; and in D. Fleisher, S. Ramon and H. Barbra "Improved oral drug delivery: solubility limitations overcome by the use of prodrugs", *Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews* (1996) 19(2) 115-130, each of which are incorporated herein by reference.

30 Prodrugs are any covalently bonded carriers that release a compound of structure (I) *in vivo* when such prodrug is administered to a patient. Prodrugs are generally prepared by modifying functional groups in a way such that the modification is cleaved, either by routine manipulation or *in vivo*, yielding the parent compound. Prodrugs include, for example, compounds prepared according to the invention wherein hydroxy or amine groups are bonded to any group that, when administered

35 to a patient, cleaves to form the hydroxy or amine groups. Thus, representative examples of prodrugs include (but are not limited to) acetate, formate and benzoate derivatives of alcohol and amine functional groups of the compounds of structure (I). Further, in the case of a carboxylic acid (-COOH), esters may be employed, such as methyl esters, ethyl esters, and the like. Esters may be active in their own right

40 and/or be hydrolysable under *in vivo* conditions in the human body. Suitable

pharmaceutically acceptable *in vivo* hydrolysable ester groups include those which break down readily in the human body to leave the parent acid or its salt.

When used herein, the term "non-aromatic" refers to groups which are saturated or unsaturated but excludes aromatic groups such as pyridine or quinoline.

5 Alkyl groups referred to herein (individually or as part of another group) include straight and branched groups containing from one to six carbon atoms i.e. C₁₋₆alkyl. Examples of such groups include, but are not limited to methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, tert-butyl, pentyl and hexyl. The alkyl groups are optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from the group consisting of aryl, 10 heterocyclyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy, (C₁₋₆)alkylthio, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkoxy, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkylthio, amino, mono- or di-(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, carboxy and esters thereof, amides of carboxy, ureido, carbamimidoyl (amidino), guanidino, alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, (C₁₋₆)acyloxy, (C₁₋₆)acylamino, azido, hydroxy and halogen.

Alkenyl groups referred to herein (individually or as part of another group) 15 include straight and branched groups containing from two to six carbon atoms i.e. C₂₋₆alkenyl. Examples of such groups include, but are not limited to, vinyl (ethenyl), propenyl, 3-but enyl, 2-but enyl, 2-pentenyl, 3-pentenyl, 3-methyl-2-but enyl, 3-methylbut-2-enyl, 3-hexenyl and 1,1-dimethylbut-2-enyl. The alkenyl groups are optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from the group consisting of 20 aryl, heterocyclyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy, (C₁₋₆)alkylthio, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkoxy, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkylthio, amino, mono- or di-(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, carboxy and esters thereof, amides of carboxy, ureido, carbamimidoyl (amidino), guanidino, alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, (C₁₋₆)acyloxy, (C₁₋₆)acylamino, azido, hydroxy and halogen.

Alkyloxy, alkoxy and alkenyloxy groups referred to herein refer to the alkyl and 25 alkenyl groups as hereinbefore defined attached to oxygen.

Cycloalkyl and cycloalkenyl groups referred to herein include groups having from three to eight ring carbon atoms. For example, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl means a saturated ring containing at least three, and at most seven, ring carbon atoms and C₃₋₇cycloalkenyl means a non-aromatic, unsaturated ring containing at least three, and at 30 most seven, ring carbon atoms. Examples of cycloalkyl and cycloalkenyl as used herein include, but are not limited to, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclopentenyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexenyl, cycloheptyl and cycloheptenyl. The cycloalkyl and cycloalkenyl groups are optionally substituted as described hereinabove for alkyl and alkenyl groups.

35 Aryl groups referred to herein (individually or as part of another group) include single and fused rings suitably containing from 4 to 7, preferably 5 or 6, ring atoms in each ring, which rings may each be unsubstituted or substituted by, for example, up to three substituents. A fused ring system may include aliphatic rings and need include only one aromatic ring. Representative aryl groups include phenyl and naphthyl such 40 as 1-naphthyl or 2-naphthyl.

Suitably any aryl group, including phenyl and naphthyl, may be optionally substituted by up to five, preferably up to three substituents. Suitable substituents include halogen, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, halo(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, 5 azido, amino, mono- and di-N-(C₁₋₆)alkylamino, acylamino, arylcarbonylamino, acyloxy, carboxy, carboxy salts, carboxy esters, carbamoyl, mono- and di-N-(C₁₋₆)alkylcarbamoyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, ureido, guanidino, 10 sulphonylamino, aminosulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylthio, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphanyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl, heterocyclyl and heterocycl(C₁₋₆)alkyl. In addition, two adjacent ring carbon atoms may be linked by a (C₃₋₅)alkylene chain, to form a carbocyclic ring.

Heterocycl and heterocyclic groups referred to herein (individually or as part of another group) include, unless otherwise defined, aromatic and non-aromatic, single and fused, rings suitably containing up to four heteroatoms in each ring, each of which 15 is selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur, which rings, may be unsubstituted or substituted by, for example, up to three substituents. Each heterocyclic ring suitably has from 4 to 7, preferably 5 or 6, ring atoms. A fused heterocyclic ring system may include carbocyclic rings and need include only one heterocyclic ring. Examples of aromatic heterocycl rings include, but are not limited to, furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, 20 oxazolyl, thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl and triazinyl. Examples of fused aromatic heterocycl rings include, but are not limited to, indolyl, isoindolyl, azaindolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiophenyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, quinazolinyl, cinnolinyl and phthalazinyl, 25 in particular benzofuranyl. Examples of non-aromatic heterocycl groups include, but are not limited to, aziridinyl, pyrrolinyl, pyrrolidinyl, imidazolinyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrazolinyl, pyrazolidinyl, piperidyl, piperazinyl, morpholino, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl and thiomorpholino.

Preferably substituents for a heterocycl group are selected from halogen, 30 (C₁₋₆)alkyl, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy, (C₁₋₆)alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, halo(C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy, amino, mono- and di-N-(C₁₋₆)alkyl-amino, acylamino, carboxy, carboxy salts, carboxy esters, carbamoyl, mono- and di-N-(C₁₋₆)alkylcarbamoyl, aryloxycarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aryl, oxy groups, ureido, guanidino, sulphonylamino, aminosulphonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylthio, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphanyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl, 35 heterocycl and heterocycl(C₁₋₆)alkyl.

Acyl groups referred to herein (individually or as part of another group) include (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbamoyl. The acyl groups are optionally substituted by from one to three halogen atoms.

Halogen or halo groups referred to herein (individually or as part of another 40 group) include fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine.

Depending on the position of attachment of substituents, two or more diastereoisomers may be possible. In that situation the present invention includes the individual diastereoisomers and mixtures thereof.

5 The 2-hydroxy compounds of formula (IA) may be of the (2S) configuration or the (2R) configuration, or be provided as mixtures thereof. The (2S) configuration is preferred.

Phase transfer catalysis systems are well known in the art, see for instance "Phase Transfer Catalysis", editor C M Starks, ACS Symposium Series 326, American Chemical Society, 1987. Preferably, the phase transfer catalysis system according to 10 the process of the present invention comprises a solution of a compound of formula (IIA) or (IIB) and a phase transfer catalyst in an organic solvent such as dichloromethane, tert-butylmethyl ether, MIBK (4-methyl-2-pentanone) or toluene, an acidic aqueous solution of a thiol compound of formula (III) or an aqueous solution of an acid addition salt of a thiol compound of formula (III), and an aqueous solution of an 15 inorganic base such as sodium hydroxide. Generally, in the process according to the present invention, the solution of the compound of formula (IIA) or (IIB) and the phase transfer catalyst in an organic solvent, and the acidic aqueous solution of the thiol compound of formula (III) or the aqueous solution of an acid addition salt of a thiol compound of formula (III), are mixed and the aqueous solution of the inorganic base is 20 then added to adjust the pH.

The phase transfer catalyst may be, for example, a quaternary ammonium salt. Quaternary ammonium salts suitable for use in the process according to the present invention include tetra-C(1-6)alkyl ammonium salts such as a tetra-methyl ammonium, methyltri-ethyl ammonium, methyltri-butyl ammonium or tetra-butyl ammonium halide 25 or hydrogensulfate, for example tetra-butyl ammonium chloride or hydrogensulfate, in particular tetra-butyl ammonium hydrogensulfate. Preferably, the phase transfer catalyst is used in the range 0.5 to 15 mol%, more preferably 1 to 10 mol%, most preferably 3 to 6 mol%.

30 The acidic aqueous solution of a thiol compound of formula (III) generally has a pH of from 0.5 to 3, preferably from 0.5 to 1.5, more preferably about 1. The solution may be acidified by addition of a suitable inorganic acid such as hydrochloric acid.

The aqueous solution of an acid addition salt of a thiol compound of formula (III) is preferably an aqueous solution of the hydrochloride salt.

35 The solution of an inorganic base, for example an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide, is added to adjust the pH of the reaction mixture so that the reaction mixture is alkaline. The pH of the reaction mixture is preferably adjusted to a pH of 12 to 14, preferably 12.5 to 13.5, more preferably about 13. During the course of the reaction it may be necessary to monitor the pH and add further portions of the solution of the inorganic base in order to maintain the pH at the desired level.

40 The phase transfer catalysis process is generally carried out at a temperature of up to 40°C. In one embodiment, the process is carried out at a temperature of from

15 to 30°C. In another embodiment, the process is carried at a temperature in the range 0 to 25°C, for example 10 to 25°C.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that in the process according to the present invention it may be necessary and/or desirable to protect one or more 5 sensitive groups in the molecule to prevent undesirable side reactions. Suitable protecting groups for use according to the present invention are well known to those skilled in the art and which may be removed under conventional conditions without disrupting the remainder of the molecule. A comprehensive discussion of the ways in which groups may be protected and methods for cleaving the resulting protected 10 derivatives is given in for example "Protective Groups in Organic Chemistry" by T.W. Greene (Wiley-Interscience, New York, 2nd edition, 1991) or "Protecting Groups" by P.J. Kocienski (Georg Thieme Verlag 1994). Particularly suitable hydroxy protecting groups include triorganosilyl groups (e.g. trialkylsilyl such as trimethylsilyl or tert-butyldimethylsilyl), organocarbonyl and organooxycarbonyl 15 groups such as acetyl, allyloxycarbonyl, 4-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl and 4-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl, and alkyl ethers such as tetrahydropyranyl or tert-butyl. Particularly suitable carboxy protecting groups include alkyl and aryl groups, for instance methyl, ethyl and phenyl. Particularly suitable amino protecting groups include acyl type protecting groups (e.g. formyl, trifluoroacetyl or acetyl), aromatic 20 urethane type protecting groups (e.g. benzyloxycarbonyl (Cbz) and substituted Cbz such as 4-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl or 4-nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl), aliphatic urethane protecting groups (e.g. 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl (Fmoc), alkoxy carbonyl such as t-butyloxycarbonyl (Boc) or isopropylloxycarbonyl, and cyclohexyloxycarbonyl) and alkyl type protecting groups (e.g. benzyl, trityl and 25 chlorotriityl).

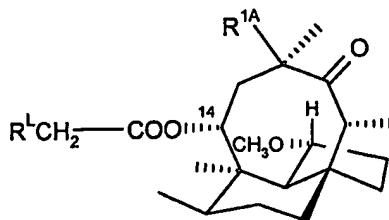
In the compound of formula (IIA) or (IIB), representative values of Y when a hydroxy protecting group include acyl, so that for example -OY may be trifluoroacetoxy or dichloroacetoxy. When the intended R³ is also hydroxyl, then it may be useful to have R^{3A} as acyloxy, for example acetyl or dichloroacetyl. When 30 however the process is used to prepare the preferred compound, mutillin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate, Y is preferably hydrogen.

R^{1A} is typically the R¹ group vinyl. This group may be converted to the alternative R¹ ethyl group by hydrogenating the vinyl group to form an ethyl group, for example by hydrogenation over a palladium catalyst (e.g. 10% palladium-on-carbon) in 35 a solvent such as ethyl acetate, ethanol, dioxane, or tetrahydrofuran.

R^{3A} is typically hydrogen or protected hydroxyl, such as acyloxy. After the coupling reaction, acyl protecting groups may be removed to give the hydroxyl groups by hydrolysis, for example using sodium hydroxide in methanol.

It may also be necessary to protect substituent groups in the compound of 40 formula (III) prior to reaction with the compound (IIA) or (IIB), for example protecting nitrogen atoms with alkoxy carbonyl, for example *t*-butoxycarbonyl.

In another embodiment of the present invention the above process may be carried out by reacting a compound of formula (IIC):



(IIC)

5

in which:

R^{1A} and R^L are as defined for formulae (IIA) and (IIB);
 with a compound of formula (III) as hereinbefore defined in which R^{2A} is R² as defined for formulae (IA) and (IB), in a phase transfer catalysis system as hereinbefore defined, and then treating the product with an acid;
 10 and thereafter, where required or desired,
 converting an R^{1A} group to an R¹, and/or
 converting one R¹ group to another R¹ group.

The acid treatment referred to above converts the epi-mutilin configuration of formula (IIC) to the usual mutilin nucleus of formula (IIA). Typically this conversion is carried out by treatment with concentrated HCl or Lukas reagent (concentrated HCl saturated with ZnCl₂) in dioxane.

As in formulae (IIA) and (IIB), R^{1A} is typically the R¹ group vinyl, and this may be converted to the alternative R¹ group by hydrogenating the vinyl group to form an 20 ethyl group.

It will be appreciated that it may be necessary to convert an R^{1A}, R^{2A} or R^{3A} group to an R¹, R² or R³ group. The groups may be converted using standard functional group transformations.

It will also be appreciated that it may be necessary to interconvert one R¹, R² 25 or R³ group to another R¹, R² or R³ group. This typically arises when one compound of formula (IA/B) is used as the immediate precursor of another compound of formula (IA/B) or when it is easier to introduce a more complex or reactive substituent at the end of a synthetic sequence. A substituent group in R² can be converted into another substituent group using one of the general methods for functional group transformation 30 described in the literature (e.g. a carboxylic ester can be hydrolysed to a carboxylic acid with base; an acid can be converted into an amide; a *tert*-butoxycarbonylamino group can be converted into an amine by treatment with trifluoroacetic acid; an amino group can be alkylated or acylated), provided that the method chosen is compatible with other functional groups in the molecule (e.g. the ketone at C-3 in the pleuromutilin 35 nucleus).

Functional group transformations are well known in the art and are described in, for instance, *Comprehensive Organic Functional Group Transformations*, eds. A.R. Katritzky, O. Meth-Cohn, and C.W. Rees (Elsevier Science Ltd., Oxford, 1995), *Comprehensive Organic Chemistry*, eds. D. Barton and W.D. Ollis (Pergamon Press, 5 Oxford, 1979), and *Comprehensive Organic Transformations*, R.C. Larock (VCH Publishers Inc., New York, 1989).

Preferably, the process according to the present invention is used to prepare a compound of formula (IA), in particular mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

10 The preparation of compounds of formulae (IIA), (IIB) and (IIC) is described in WO99/21855. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a compound of formula (IIA) wherein R^L is CH_3SO_2O is prepared by reacting pleuromutilin with methane sulphonyl chloride.

15 Thiol compounds of formula (III) may be readily prepared from the corresponding compounds of formula (IV):



in which:

20 R^{2A} is R^2 as defined for formulae (IA) and (IB) or a group convertible to R^2 ;
 m is as defined for formulae (IA) and (IB); and
 X is a functional group which can be converted to thiol, either directly or indirectly; using conventional functional group interconversion processes for converting X to a thiol group.

25 Examples of suitable X groups include hydroxy, xanthate, thioacetate and leaving groups such as mesylate.

Preferably, the thiol compound of formula (III) is prepared in a novel process from the corresponding xanthate compound.

Thus in another embodiment the present invention provides a process for 30 preparing a compound of formula (III) as hereinbefore defined which process comprises hydrolysis of a compound of formula (IV) in which X is $-SCSOC(1-6)alkyl$.

Preferably, the hydrolysis is carried out using a solution of an inorganic base such as sodium or potassium hydroxide in a solvent such as ethanol, ethanol/toluene or ethanol/MIBK.

35 Preferably, the xanthate group X is $-SCSOC(1-4)alkyl$, in particular $-SCSOCH_2CH_3$.

Alternatively, the thiol compound of formula (III) may be prepared from the corresponding thioacetate ester by hydrolysis with an alkali metal alkoxide in an alcohol solvent, for instance potassium *t*-butoxide or sodium methoxide in ethanol.

40 Preferably, the thiol compound of formula (III) is not isolated but is used in the next step as the crude reaction product. If necessary, the thiol compound may be

prepared in a more purified form, by isolation as an acid addition salt, for instance the hydrochloride salt. The thiol compound may also be isolated as the sodium salt.

In another embodiment the present invention provides a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IA) or (IB) as hereinbefore defined which 5 process comprises, as an early step, the preparation of a thiol compound of formula (III) from a compound of formula (IV) in which X is a xanthate group, as hereinbefore defined. The resultant thiol may be then reacted with a compound of formula (IIA/B/C) in a phase transfer catalysis process, as hereinbefore defined, or reacted with a compound of formula (IIA/B/C) in the presence of an inorganic base, such as sodium 10 methoxide, sodium ethoxide, sodium hydride, sodium hexamethyldisilazide or lithium hexamethyldisilazide, in a solvent such as 2-propanol, ethanol, methanol, *N,N*-dimethylformamide or tetrahydrofuran, as described in WO99/21855.

In another embodiment the present invention provides an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (III). Preferably, the acid addition salt is the hydrochloride salt.

15 In another embodiment the present invention provides the sodium salt of a compound of formula (III).

Xanthate compounds of formula (IV) in which X is $-\text{SCSOC(1-6)alkyl}$ may be readily prepared from the corresponding compound of formula (IV) in which X is a leaving group, for instance mesylate, by reaction with a xanthate salt such as sodium 20 or potassium xanthate, in a solvent such as toluene, MIBK, acetone, ethanol, THF, dioxane, DMSO, water or pyridine, in particular toluene. Preferably an excess of xanthate is used. In one embodiment, from 1.1 to 3 equivalents (by mole), for example from 1.1 to 2 equivalents such as about 1.2 equivalents of xanthate are used. In a further embodiment, from 1.3 to 3 equivalents, for example about 1.5 equivalents 25 of xanthate are used. The reaction is typically carried out at a temperature of from 25 to 50°C. In one embodiment, a temperature of from 25 to 35°C, for example about 30°C is used. In a further embodiment, a temperature of from 35 to 40°C is used. The mesylate compound of formula (IV) in turn may be prepared by reaction of the corresponding alcohol with methanesulfonyl chloride in dichloromethane, in the 30 presence of a base such as triethylamine or Hunig's base (diisopropylethylamine).

Preferably, the mesylate compound of formula (IV) is carried through to the pleuromutilin compound of formula (IA) or (IB) via the xanthate intermediate in a "one-pot" synthesis.

In another embodiment the present invention provides a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IA) or (IB) as hereinbefore defined which 35 process comprises, as an early step, the preparation of a compound of formula (IV) in which X is a xanthate group from a compound of formula (IV) wherein X is a mesylate group, as hereinbefore defined.

In another embodiment the present invention provides a process for the 40 preparation of a compound of formula (IA) or (IB) as hereinbefore defined which process comprises, as an early step, the preparation of a compound of formula (IV) in

which X is a mesylate group from a compound of formula (IV) wherein X is a hydroxy group, as hereinbefore defined.

In another embodiment the present invention provides a compound of formula (IV) in which X is -SCSOC(1-6)alkyl, or an acid addition salt thereof, for example an acid addition salt of tropine ethylxanthate, in particular the maleate salt.

Thioacetate compounds of formula (IV) may be readily prepared from the corresponding mesylate in a novel process. Accordingly, in another embodiment the present invention provides a process for preparing a compound of formula (IV) in which X is -SCOC(1-6)alkyl which process comprises reacting a compound of formula (IV) in which X is a leaving group, for example mesylate, with a thioacetate salt such as potassium thioacetate, in a solvent, for instance acetone or, more preferably, acetonitrile/water or pyridine/water, at a temperature of from 30 to 60°C, preferably from 35 to 50°C.

Alternatively, a thioacetate compound of formula (IV) may be prepared directly from the corresponding compound of formula (IV) in which X is hydroxy by treatment with thiolacetic acid in the presence of an activating system, for instance triphenylphosphine/di-iso-propyl azodicarboxylate, as described in WO99/21855.

In a preferred embodiment the process according to the present invention is used to prepare mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate (compound of formula (C)). In order to provide the required exo stereochemistry in the final product, tropine-3-thiol is typically used as the compound of formula (III). We have found that, on a development scale, the preferred route via the xanthate intermediate gives a yield of final compound of about 70% (from pleuromutilin) and 35% (from tropine), compared to about 25% (from pleuromutilin) and 9% (from tropine) using the alternative route via a thioacetate intermediate.

Impure compound of formula (IA) or (IB), in particular mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate, may be purified by a process which comprises partitioning between an organic solvent such as ethyl acetate and an acidic aqueous phase, retaining the acidic aqueous phase, mixing with an organic solvent such as dichloromethane, and then making the aqueous phase basic with an inorganic base such as sodium carbonate and finally back extracting into the organic solvent. This organic solution may then be concentrated under reduced pressure, to give residue which can then be crystallised to provide pure crystalline product. For mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate, the preferred solvent system is iso-propanol/water.

Alternatively, impure compound of formula (IA) or (IB) may be purified by recrystallisation from a suitable solvent, for example ethanol/water, an alcohol such as isopropanol or an ester such as isopropyl acetate.

WO99/21855 describes the preparation of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate in small scale reactions in which the product is isolated by chromatography without further purification. The compounds prepared

according to the process of the present invention may however be in crystalline form and may optionally be hydrated or solvated. Furthermore, some of the crystalline forms of the compounds of formula (IA) and (IB) prepared according to the process of the present invention may exist as polymorphs, which are included in the present 5 invention.

Thus in another embodiment the present invention provides crystalline mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

In a further embodiment the present invention provides crystalline mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate characterised in that it 10 provides:

- (i) an infra-red spectrum measured by ATR (attenuated total reflectance) containing peaks at 3234, 1735 and 1725 cm^{-1} , and/or
- (ii) a DSC (differential scanning calorimetry) profile having an endotherm with an onset temperature of 125 - 127°C, and/or
- 15 (iii) an XRPD (X-ray powder diffraction) pattern having peaks at about 9.6, about 12.8, about 13.9 and about 19.6.

In one preferred embodiment the present invention provides crystalline mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate characterised in that it provides an infra-red spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 1.

20 In another preferred embodiment the present invention provides crystalline mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate characterised in that it provides a DSC profile substantially in accordance with Figure 2.

In a further preferred embodiment the present invention provides crystalline mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate characterised in 25 that it provides an XRPD pattern substantially in accordance with Figure 3.

According to a second aspect of the present invention we have found that certain salts of mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate have advantages which render them especially suitable for use in medical therapy, in particular antibacterial therapy, and in the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions. 30 In particular, the hydrosuccinate salt of mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate is readily prepared in a stable, non-hygroscopic crystalline form, has a high solubility in water and does not cause significant irritation when applied as a suitable topical formulation.

Thus in one embodiment of the present invention there is provided a 35 pharmaceutically acceptable salt of mutilin 14-(*exo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate selected from the acetate, p-aminobenzoate, ascorbate, aspartate, benzenesulfonate, benzoate, bicarbonate, bismethylenesalicylate, bisulfate, bitartrate, borate, calcium edetate, camsylate, carbonate, clavulanate, citrate, cyclohexylsulfamate, dihydrochloride, edetate, edisylate, estolate, esylate, 40 ethanesulfonate, ethanesulfonate, formate, fumarate, gluceptate, gluconate, glutamate, glycollate, glycolylarsanilate, hexylresorcinate, hydrabamine,

hydrobromide, hydrochloride, hydrofumarate, hydrogen phosphate, hydroiodide, hydromaleate, hydrosuccinate, hydroxynaphthoate, isethionate, itaconate, lactate, lactobionate, laurate, malate, maleate, mandelate, mesylate, methylbromide, methylnitrate, methylsulfate, monopotassium maleate, mucate, napsylate, nitrate, N-5 methylglucamine, oxalate, oxaloacetate, pamoate (embonate), palmitate, palmitate, pantothenate, phosphate/diphosphate, piruvate, polygalacturonate, propionate, saccharate, salicylate, stearate, subacetate, succinate, sulfate, tannate, tartrate, teoclate, tosylate, triethiodide, trifluoroacetate and valerate salts, or a solvate thereof.

In another embodiment of the present invention there is provided a 10 pharmaceutically acceptable salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate selected from the acetate, p-aminobenzoate, ascorbate, aspartate, benzenesulfonate, benzoate, bicarbonate, bismethylenesalicylate, bisulfate, bitartrate, borate, calcium edetate, camsylate, carbonate, clavulanate, citrate, cyclohexylsulfamate, dihydrochloride, edetate, edisylate, estolate, esylate, ethanedisulfonate, ethanesulfonate, formate, fumarate, gluceptate, gluconate, glutamate, glycollate, glycolylarsanilate, hexylresorcinate, hydrabamine, hydrobromide, hydrofumarate, hydrogen phosphate, hydroiodide, hydromaleate, hydrosuccinate, hydroxynaphthoate, isethionate, itaconate, lactate, lactobionate, laurate, malate, mandelate, methylbromide, methylnitrate, methylsulfate, 15 monopotassium maleate, mucate, napsylate, nitrate, N-methylglucamine, oxalate, oxaloacetate, pamoate (embonate), palmitate, palmitate, pantothenate, phosphate/diphosphate, piruvate, polygalacturonate, propionate, saccharate, salicylate, stearate, subacetate, succinate, sulfate, tannate, tartrate, teoclate, tosylate, triethiodide, trifluoroacetate and valerate salts, or a solvate thereof.

20 Preferred salts according to the present invention include the hydrosuccinate, hydrofumarate, hydromaleate and tosylate salts, especially the hydrosuccinate, hydrofumarate and tosylate salts.

A particularly preferred salt according to the present invention is the 25 hydrosuccinate salt.

30 For the avoidance of doubt, as used herein, the hydrosuccinate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate is the salt formed between mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate and succinic acid in a stoichiometric ratio of 1:1. Similarly, the hydrofumarate and 35 hydromaleate salts of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate are the salts formed between mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate and fumaric or maleic acids respectively in a stoichiometric ratio of 1:1.

40 The salts of the invention may be in crystalline or non-crystalline form and may optionally be solvated or hydrated. As discussed above, those skilled in the art of organic chemistry will appreciate that many organic compounds can form complexes with solvents in which they are reacted or from which they are

precipitated or crystallized. These complexes are known as "solvates". For example, a complex with water is known as a "hydrate". Solvates of the salts of the invention are within the scope of the invention. This invention includes within its scope stoichiometric hydrates as well as salts containing variable amounts of water.

5 Furthermore, some of the crystalline forms of the salts may exist as polymorphs, which are included in the present invention.

Thus in another embodiment of the present invention there is provided a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate selected from the acetate, p-aminobenzoate, ascorbate, aspartate, 10 benzenesulfonate, benzoate, bicarbonate, bismethylenesalicylate, bisulfate, bitartrate, borate, calcium edetate, camsylate, carbonate, clavulanate, citrate, cyclohexylsulfamate, dihydrochloride, edetate, edisylate, estolate, esylate, ethanesulfonate, ethanesulfonate, formate, fumarate, gluceptate, gluconate, glutamate, glycollate, glycolylarsanilate, hexylresorcinate, hydrabamine, 15 hydrobromide, hydrochloride, hydrofumarate, hydrogen phosphate, hydroiodide, hydromaleate, hydrosuccinate, hydroxynaphthoate, isethionate, itaconate, lactate, lactobionate, laurate, malate, maleate, mandelate, mesylate, methylbromide, methylnitrate, methylsulfate, monopotassium maleate, mucate, napsylate, nitrate, N-methylglucamine, oxalate, oxaloacetate, pamoate (embonate), palmitate, palmitate, 20 pantothenate, phosphate/diphosphate, piruvate, polygalacturonate, propionate, saccharate, salicylate, stearate, subacetate, succinate, sulfate, tannate, tartrate, teoclate, tosylate, triethiodide, trifluoroacetate and valerate salts, or a solvate thereof, in crystalline form.

Preferred crystalline salts according to the present invention include the 25 hydrosuccinate, hydrofumarate, hydromaleate and tosylate salts, especially the hydrosuccinate, hydrofumarate and tosylate salts.

A particularly preferred crystalline salt according to the present invention is the hydrosuccinate salt.

In another embodiment the present invention provides a crystalline 30 hydrosuccinate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate characterised in that it provides:

- (i) an infra-red spectrum measured by ATR (attenuated total reflectance) containing peaks at 3470, 1731 and 1711 cm^{-1} , and/or
- (ii) a DSC (differential scanning calorimetry) profile having an endotherm with an 35 onset temperature of 168 - 170 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, and/or
- (iii) an XRPD (X-ray powder diffraction) pattern having peaks at about 13.4, about 14.4 and about 20.7.

In another embodiment the present invention provides a crystalline hydrofumarate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-40 acetate characterised in that it provides:

- (i) an infra-red spectrum measured by ATR (attenuated total reflectance) containing peaks at 3487, 1731 and 1710 cm^{-1} , and/or
- (ii) a DSC (differential scanning calorimetry) profile having an endotherm with an onset temperature of 243 - 245 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, and/or
- 5 (iii) an XRPD (X-ray powder diffraction) pattern having peaks at about 13.5, about 14.4 and about 20.5.

In another embodiment the present invention provides a crystalline hydromaleate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate characterised in that it provides:

- 10 (i) an infra-red spectrum measured by ATR (attenuated total reflectance) containing peaks at 3368, 1729 and 1709 cm^{-1} , and/or
- (ii) a DSC (differential scanning calorimetry) profile having an endotherm with an onset temperature of 186 - 188 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, and/or
- (iii) an XRPD (X-ray powder diffraction) pattern having peaks at about 13.5 and

15 about 20.7.

In another embodiment the present invention provides a crystalline tosylate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate characterised in that it provides:

- 20 (i) an infra-red spectrum measured by ATR (attenuated total reflectance) containing peaks at 3394, 1735 and 1715 cm^{-1} , and/or
- (ii) a DSC (differential scanning calorimetry) profile having an endotherm with an onset temperature of 122 - 124 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, and/or
- (iii) an XRPD (X-ray powder diffraction) pattern having peaks at about 14.0, about 16.2, about 18.5 and about 22.1.

25 In one preferred embodiment the present invention provides a crystalline hydrosuccinate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate characterised in that it provides an infra-red spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure 4.

30 In another preferred embodiment the present invention provides a crystalline hydrosuccinate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate characterised in that it provides a DSC profile substantially in accordance with Figure 5.

35 In a further preferred embodiment the present invention provides a crystalline hydrosuccinate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate characterised in that it provides an XRPD pattern substantially in accordance with Figure 6.

40 The salts according to the invention are suitably provided in substantially pure form, for example at least 50% pure, suitable at least 60% pure, advantageously at least 75% pure, preferably at least 85% pure, more preferably at least 95% pure, especially at least 98% pure, all percentages being calculated as weight/weight. An impure or less pure form of a salt according to the invention may, for example, be used

in the preparation of a more pure form of the same salt or of a different salt suitable for pharmaceutical use.

The salts according to the present invention may be prepared by conventional methodology.

5 In a further embodiment of the present invention there is provided a process for preparing a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate as hereinbefore defined, or a solvate thereof, which process comprises mixing a solution or suspension of the corresponding acid with a solution of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate
10 in a suitable solvent.

Solvents suitable for use in the process according to the present invention include alcohols such as isopropanol and esters such as ethyl acetate.

15 In a preferred embodiment the acid and mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate are dissolved separately in isopropanol, where necessary heating to from 45 to 55 °C, and the solutions then mixed. The resulting mixture is typically stirred until crystallisation occurs.

20 Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate may be prepared by the procedures described in WO99/21855. Preferably, the mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate is prepared by the process hereinbefore described.

25 The salts of the present invention have antimicrobial properties and are therefore of use in therapy, in particular for treating microbial infections in animals, especially mammals, including humans, in particular humans and domesticated animals (including farm animals). The salts may be used for the treatment of infections caused by, for example, Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria and
30 mycoplasmas, including, for example, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Streptococcus agalactiae*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Haemophilus* sp., *Neisseria* sp., *Legionella* sp., *Chlamydia* sp., *Moraxella catarrhalis*, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, and *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*.

The present invention also provides a method of treating microbial infections in animals, especially in humans and in domesticated mammals, which comprises administering a salt of the invention or a solvate thereof, or a composition comprising a salt or solvate according to the invention, to a patient in need thereof.

35 The invention further provides the use of a salt of the invention or a solvate thereof in the preparation of a medicament for use in the treatment of microbial infections.

40 Salts of the present invention may be used to treat skin and soft tissue infections, for example secondarily infected dermatoses or traumatic lesions and impetigo, and acne, by topical application. Accordingly, in another embodiment the present invention provides the use of a salt of the invention or a solvate thereof in the

preparation of a medicament adapted for topical administration for use in the treatment of skin and soft tissue infections and also in the treatment of acne in humans.

It will be appreciated that reference to treatment includes acute treatment or prophylaxis as well as the alleviation of established symptoms.

5 Typically, a physician will determine the actual dosage which will be most suitable for an individual subject. The specific dose level and frequency of dosage for any particular individual may be varied and will depend upon a variety of factors including the activity of the specific compound employed, the metabolic stability and length of action of that compound, the age, body weight, general health, sex, diet,

10 mode and time of administration, rate of excretion, drug combination, the severity of the particular condition, and the individual undergoing therapy.

15 The salts according to the invention may suitably be administered to the patient at a daily dosage of from 1.0 to 50 mg/kg of body weight. For an adult human (of approximately 70 kg body weight), from 50 to 3000 mg, for example about 1500 mg, of a compound according to the invention may be administered daily. Suitably, the dosage for adult humans is from 5 to 20 mg/kg per day. Higher or lower dosages may, however, be used in accordance with normal clinical practice.

20 While it is possible that, for use in therapy, a salt of the present invention may be administered as the raw chemical, it is preferable to present the active ingredient as a pharmaceutical formulation e.g. when the agent is in admixture with a suitable pharmaceutical excipient, diluent or carrier selected with regard to the intended route of administration and standard pharmaceutical practice.

25 More specifically, the salts and compositions according to the invention may be formulated for administration in any convenient way for use in human or veterinary medicine, by analogy with other antibiotics.

30 Accordingly, in one embodiment the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition or formulation comprising at least one salt of the invention or a solvate thereof in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or excipient. The carrier and/or excipient must be "acceptable" in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the formulation and not deleterious to the recipient thereof.

35 In another embodiment the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising, as active ingredient, at least one salt of the invention or a solvate thereof in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or excipient for use in therapy, and in particular, in the treatment of human or animal subjects suffering from a condition susceptible to amelioration by an antibacterial compound.

40 In another embodiment the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the salts of the present invention or solvates thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier (including combinations thereof).

There is further provided by the present invention a process of preparing a pharmaceutical composition, which process comprises mixing at least one salt of the invention or a solvate thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent and/or carrier.

5 The pharmaceutical compositions may be for human or animal usage in human and veterinary medicine and will typically comprise any one or more of a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier. Acceptable carriers or diluents for therapeutic use are well known in the pharmaceutical art, and are described, for example, in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Co. (A. R.

10 Gennaro edit. 1985). The choice of pharmaceutical diluent, excipient or carrier can be selected with regard to the intended route of administration and standard pharmaceutical practice. The pharmaceutical compositions may comprise as – or in addition to – the excipient, diluent or carrier, any suitable binder(s), lubricant(s), suspending agent(s), coating agent(s), solubilising agent(s), preservative(s),

15 stabiliser(s), dye(s), flavouring agent(s) and antioxidant(s). Examples of preservatives include sodium benzoate, sorbic acid and esters of p-hydroxybenzoic acid.

For some embodiments, the agents of the present invention may also be used in combination with a cyclodextrin. Cyclodextrins are known to form inclusion and non-inclusion complexes with drug molecules. Formation of a drug-cyclodextrin complex 20 may modify the solubility, dissolution rate, bioavailability and/or stability property of a drug molecule. Drug-cyclodextrin complexes are generally useful for most dosage forms and administration routes. As an alternative to direct complexation with the drug the cyclodextrin may be used as an auxiliary additive, e. g. as a carrier, diluent or solubiliser. Alpha-, beta- and gamma-cyclodextrins are most commonly used and 25 suitable examples are described in WO 91/11172, WO 94/02518 and WO 98/55148.

The salts of the invention may be milled using known milling procedures such as wet milling to obtain a particle size appropriate for tablet formation and for other formulation types. Finely divided (nanoparticulate) preparations of the compounds of the invention may be prepared by processes known in the art, for example see 30 International Patent Application No. WO 02/00196 (SmithKline Beecham).

The routes for administration (delivery) include, but are not limited to, one or more of: oral (e. g. as a tablet, capsule, or as an ingestable solution), topical, mucosal (e. g. as a nasal spray or aerosol for inhalation), nasal, parenteral (e. g. by an injectable form), gastrointestinal, intraspinal, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, 35 intravenous, intrauterine, intraocular, intradermal, intracranial, intratracheal, intravaginal, intracerebroventricular, intracerebral, subcutaneous, ophthalmic (including intravitreal or intracameral), transdermal, rectal, buccal, epidural and sublingual. Preferably the route of administration is topical.

It is to be understood that not all of the salts need be administered by the same 40 route. Likewise, if the composition comprises more than one active component, then those components may be administered by different routes. For example, for some

applications, preferably the agent is administered orally and for other applications, preferably the agent is administered topically.

There may be different composition/formulation requirements dependent on the different delivery systems. By way of example, the pharmaceutical composition of the 5 present invention may be formulated to be delivered using a mini-pump or by a mucosal route, for example, as a nasal spray or aerosol for inhalation or ingestable solution, or parenterally in which the composition is formulated by an injectable form, for delivery, by, for example, an intravenous, intramuscular or subcutaneous route. Alternatively, the formulation may be designed to be delivered by both routes. In a 10 preferred embodiment the agents of the present invention are delivered topically. Hence, preferably the agent is in a form that is suitable for topical delivery.

The salts and compositions according to the invention can be administered (e. g. orally or topically) in the form of tablets, capsules, powders, granules, lozenges, 15 creams, syrups, sprays, ovules, elixirs, or liquid preparations, for example solutions or suspensions, which may be formulated for oral use or in sterile form for parenteral administration by injection or infusion and which may contain flavouring or colouring agents, for immediate-, delayed-, modified-, sustained-, pulsed- or controlled-release applications.

Compositions according to the invention intended for topical administration 20 may, for example, be in the form of ointments, creams, lotions, solutions, dusting powders, eye ointments, eye drops, ear drops, nose drops; nasal sprays, impregnated dressings, and aerosols, and may contain appropriate conventional additives, including, for example, preservatives, solvents to assist drug penetration, and emollients in ointments and creams. Such topical formulations may also contain 25 compatible conventional carriers, for example cream or ointment bases, ethanol or oleyl alcohol for lotions and aqueous bases for sprays. Such carriers may constitute from about 1% to about 98% by weight of the formulation; more usually they will constitute up to about 80% by weight of the formulation. For example, the agent of the present invention can be formulated as a suitable ointment containing the active 30 compound suspended or dissolved in, for example, a mixture with one or more of the following: mineral oil, liquid petrolatum, white petrolatum, propylene glycol, polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene compound, emulsifying wax and water. Alternatively, it can be formulated as a suitable lotion or cream, suspended or 35 dissolved in, for example, a mixture of one or more of the following: mineral oil, sorbitan monostearate, a polyethylene glycol, liquid paraffin, polysorbate 60, cetyl esters wax, cetearyl alcohol, 2-octyldodecanol, benzyl alcohol and water.

Compositions according to the invention intended for topical administration, in addition to the above, may also contain a steroid anti-inflammatory agent; for example, betamethasone.

40 Compositions according to the invention may also be dermally or transdermally administered, for example, by the use of a skin patch. However, preferably the

compositions of the present invention are used topically to treat localised, non-systemic infections rather than systemic infections.

Compositions according to the invention may also be administered by the ocular route. For ophthalmic use, the compounds can be formulated as micronised

5 suspensions in isotonic, pH adjusted, sterile saline, or, preferably, as solutions in isotonic, pH adjusted, sterile saline, optionally in combination with a preservative such as a benzylalkonium chloride. Alternatively, they may be formulated in an ointment such as petrolatum.

10 A salt or composition according to the invention is suitably administered to the patient in an antimicrobially effective amount.

A composition according to the invention may suitably contain from 0.001% by weight, preferably (for other than spray compositions) from 10 to 60% by weight, of a salt according to the invention (based on the total weight of the composition), depending on the method of administration.

15 When the compositions according to the invention are presented in unit dosage form, for instance as a tablet, each unit dose may suitably comprise from 25 to 1000 mg, preferable from 50 to 500 mg, of a salt according to the invention.

20 The salts of the invention may also be used in combination with other therapeutic agents. The invention thus provides, in a further aspect, a combination comprising a compound of the invention or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof together with a further therapeutic agent.

25 When a compound of the invention or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof is used in combination with a second therapeutic agent active against the same disease state the dose of each compound may differ from that when the compound is used alone. Appropriate doses will be readily appreciated by those skilled in the art. It will be appreciated that the amount of a compound of the invention required for use in treatment will vary with the nature of the condition being treated and the age and the condition of the patient and will be ultimately at the discretion of the attendant physician or veterinarian. The compounds of the present

30 invention may be used in combination with other antibacterial drugs such as a penicillin, a cephalosporin, a sulfonamide or an erythromycin.

35 The combinations referred to above may conveniently be presented for use in the form of a pharmaceutical formulation and thus pharmaceutical formulations comprising a combination as defined above together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient comprise a further aspect of the invention. The individual components of such combinations may be administered either sequentially or simultaneously in separate or combined pharmaceutical formulations by any convenient route.

40 When administration is sequential, either the compound of the invention or the second therapeutic agent may be administered first. When administration is

simultaneous, the combination may be administered either in the same or different pharmaceutical composition.

When combined in the same formulation it will be appreciated that the two compounds must be stable and compatible with each other and the other

5 components of the formulation. When formulated separately they may be provided in any convenient formulation, conveniently in such manner as are known for such compounds in the art.

According to a third aspect of the present invention we have found that mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof is especially suitable for topical administration, particularly to treat localised, non-systemic infections.

Thus in one embodiment the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition for topical administration comprising mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

Suitable topical compositions are as hereinbefore defined.

Salts and solvates suitable for use in the composition according to the present invention are also as hereinbefore described. Preferably, the composition comprises mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or the

20 hydrosuccinate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate, or a solvate thereof.

In another embodiment the present invention provides a method of treating microbial infections in animals, especially in humans and in domesticated mammals, which comprises topically administering mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

The invention further provides the use of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof in the preparation of a medicament for use in the treatment of microbial infections, which medicament is administered topically.

According to a fourth aspect of the present invention we have found pharmaceutical compositions or formulations for topical administration comprising mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof which have advantageous cosmetic properties, are smooth rather than gritty and exhibit a sufficient release rate to exert their therapeutic effect.

Thus in one embodiment the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition for topical administration comprising:

(a) mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof in particulate form wherein D₉₀ is from 15 to 40 µm, and

(b) an ointment base.

The composition according to the present invention comprises particles of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof. Salts and solvates suitable for 5 use in the composition according to the present invention are as hereinbefore described. Preferably, the composition comprises particles of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or the hydrosuccinate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate, or a solvate thereof.

When used herein, the term "D₉₀" refers to the particle diameter which 90% of 10 the particles are less than. Preferably, D₉₀ of the particles in the composition according to the present invention is from 15 to 25 μ m.

In a preferred embodiment the particles in the composition according to the present invention also have a D₅₀ of from 5 to 15 μ m. When used herein, the term "D₅₀" refers to the median particle diameter.

15 Methods for measuring particle diameter distribution are well known. Preferably, the particle diameter distribution of the particles in the composition according to the present invention are measured using a laser diffraction technique. Suitable laser diffraction apparatus include, for example, the Sympatec HELOS/QUIXEL, obtainable from Sympatec UK and Ireland, Bury Business Centre, 20 Kay Street, Bury BL9 6BU, United Kingdom, email: sympatec.uk@btinternet.com., or the Malvern Mastersizer obtainable from Malvern Instruments, Malvern, UK. A general description of measuring particle diameter distribution by laser diffraction can be found in *Physical Characterization of Pharmaceutical Solids, Drugs and Pharmaceutical Sciences*, Volume 70, pages 175 to 178.

25 Ointment bases suitable for use in the compositions according to the present invention are known in the art and include, for example, White Petrolatum USP, Hydrophilic Petrolatum USP, Anhydrous Lanolin USP, Lanolin USP, Hydrous Lanolin USP, Aquaphor[®] (a registered trademark of Beiersdorf), Eucerin[®] (a registered trademark of Beiersdorf), ACTIBASE[®] (a registered trademark of Sante) and 30 Polyethylene Glycol Ointment USP. Preferably, the ointment base is petrolatum, see for instance the *Handbook of Pharmaceutical Excipients*, Fourth Edition, Edited by R.C. Rowe, P.J. Sheskey and P.J. Weller, Published by Pharmaceutical Press and the American Pharmaceutical Association, page 421 to 423, in particular White Petrolatum USP.

35 The compositions according to the invention typically contain up to 5% w/w of particles in the ointment base, preferably from 0.5 to 2% w/w, more preferably 0.5 to 1% w/w and most preferably about 1% w/w.

In another embodiment the present invention provides a process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for topical administration as hereinbefore defined 40 comprising mixing

(a) mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof in particulate form wherein D₉₀ is from 15 to 40 µm, and

(b) an ointment base.

5 When petrolatum is used as the ointment base, the petrolatum is preferably heated to a temperature of from 60 to 70°C before mixing.

Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate may be prepared by the procedures described in WO99/21855. Preferably, the mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate is prepared by the process 10 hereinbefore described. The pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate are also preferably as hereinbefore described.

Particles of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof may be prepared by, 15 for example, milling using known milling procedures to obtain a particle size appropriate for use in the compositions according to the present invention. Mill types suitable for use according to the present invention are known in the art and include, for example, classifier mills (ZPS Mill, Alpine), fluid bed air jet mills (AFG Mill, Alpine), spiral air jet mills (AS Mill, Alpine) and high speed impact mills (USP Mill, Alpine).

20 The compositions of the present invention have antimicrobial properties and are therefore of use in therapy, in particular for treating microbial infections in animals, especially mammals, including humans, in particular humans and domesticated animals (including farm animals). The compositions may be used for the treatment of infections caused by, for example, Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria and 25 mycoplasmas, including, for example, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Streptococcus agalactiae*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Haemophilus sp.*, *Neisseria sp.*, *Legionella sp.*, *Chlamydia sp.*, *Moraxella catarrhalis*, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, and *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*.

30 The present invention also provides a method of treating microbial infections in animals, especially in humans and in domesticated mammals, which comprises administering a composition of the invention to a patient in need thereof.

The invention further provides the use of a composition of the invention in the preparation of a medicament for use in the treatment of microbial infections.

35 Compositions of the present invention may be used to treat skin and soft tissue infections, for example secondarily infected dermatoses or traumatic lesions and impetigo, and acne, by topical application. Accordingly, in another embodiment the present invention provides the use of a composition of the invention in the preparation of a medicament adapted for topical administration for use in the 40 treatment of skin and soft tissue infections and also in the treatment of acne in humans.

According to a fifth aspect of the present invention we have found that mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof may be administered twice daily (bid).

Thus in one embodiment the present invention provides a method of treating 5 microbial infections in animals, especially in humans and in domesticated mammals, which comprises administering mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof bid.

The invention further provides the use of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or 10 solvate thereof in the preparation of a medicament for use in the treatment of microbial infections, which medicament is administered bid.

Suitably, the bid administration is at 12 hour intervals, although a greater or lesser interval between administrations may be used.

Preferably, the mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof is administered 15 topically in the form of a pharmaceutical composition as hereinbefore defined.

Salts and solvates suitable for use according to the present invention are as hereinbefore described. Preferably, the mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate is in the form of the free base or the 20 hydrosuccinate salt, or a solvate thereof.

According to a sixth aspect of the present invention we have found that use of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof may allow the duration of therapy to be reduced as compared with conventional antibacterial therapy.

25 Thus in one embodiment the present invention provides a method of treating microbial infections in animals, especially in humans and in domesticated mammals, which comprises administering mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof for 5 to 7 days.

30 The invention further provides the use of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof in the preparation of a medicament for use in the treatment of microbial infections, which medicament is administered for 5 to 7 days.

35 Preferably, the mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof is administered topically in the form of a pharmaceutical composition as hereinbefore defined.

Salts and solvates suitable for use according to the present invention are as 40 hereinbefore described. Preferably, the mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate is in the form of the free base or the hydrosuccinate salt, or a solvate thereof.

The invention is illustrated by the following Examples.

EXAMPLES

The infra-red spectra, XRPD patterns and DSC profiles described herein may be

5 recorded using techniques well known to those skilled in the art. For example, the infra-red spectra, XRPD patterns and DSC profiles may be recorded as follows:

IR Spectroscopy

The infra-red spectrum of the solid product was recorded using a *Perkin Elmer*

10 *Spectrum One* FT-IR spectrometer fitted with a Diamond/ZnSe Universal ATR Accessory at 2 cm⁻¹ resolution. Data were digitised at 1 cm⁻¹ intervals.

When indicated herein that a compound has a peak in its infra-red spectrum at a given value, it typically means that the peak is within ± 2 cm⁻¹.

15

XRPD

The X-ray powder diffractogram pattern of the product was recorded on a Philips

X'Pert Pro, Model PW3040/60 using the following acquisition conditions: Tube anode:

Cu, K alpha 1 and K alpha 2 radiation, Generator tension: 40 kV, Generator current: 45

20 mA, Start angle: 2.0 degrees 2 theta, End angle: 45.0 degrees 2 theta, Step size: 0.02 degrees 2 theta, time per step: 4.0 seconds.

When indicated herein that a compound has a peak in its XRPD pattern at a given value, it typically means that the peak is within ± 0.1 .

25

DSC

The DSC thermogram of the product was obtained using a TA Instruments Q1000

calorimeter. The sample was weighed into an aluminium pan, a pan lid placed on top

and lightly crimped without sealing the pan. The experiment was conducted using a

30 heating rate of 10°C min⁻¹.

When indicated herein that a compound has a peak in its DSC profile at a given value, it typically means that the peak is within $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$.

35 **Note on naming of pleuromutilin analogues**

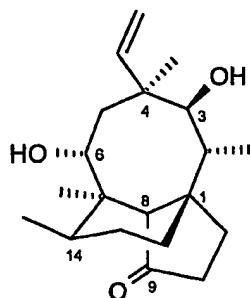
In the Examples, compound (a), which in the IUPAC system has the systematic name

(1S, 2R, 3S, 4S, 6R, 7R, 8R, 14R)-3,6-dihydroxy-2,4,7,14-tetramethyl-4-vinyl-

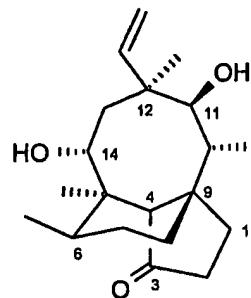
40 tricyclo[5.4.3.0^{1,8}]tetradecan-9-one, is referred to using the trivial name mutilin and

with the numbering system described by H Berner, G Schulz, and H Schneider in

Tetrahedron, 1981, 37, 915-919.

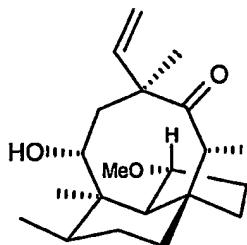


(a) IUPAC numbering



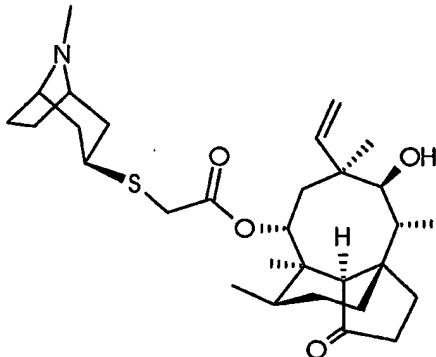
(a) Mutilin numbering

Likewise, compound (b), which has the systematic name (1*R*, 2*R*, 4*S*, 6*R*, 7*R*, 8*S*, 9*R*, 14*R*)- 6-hydroxy-9-methoxy-2,4,7,14-tetramethyl-4-vinyl-tricyclo[5.4.3.0^{1,8}]tetradecan-3-one, is named as (3*R*)-3-deoxo-11-deoxy-3-methoxy-11-oxo-4-*epi*-mutilin.



(b)

10 Reference Example 1 - Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate



15 The title compound was prepared from *endo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]octan-3-ol and mutilin 14-methanesulfonyloxyacetate using the process described in Example 15 of WO99/21855 (0.09 g, 17%); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) *inter alia* 0.74 (3H, d, J 6.7 Hz), 0.99 (3H, d, J 7.5 Hz), 1.18 (3H, s), 1.63 (3H, s), 2.28 (3H, s), 3.0 (1H, m), 3.13 (2H, s), 3.16 (2H, m), 3.36 (1H, m), 5.15 to 5.37 (2H, m), 5.77 (1H, d, J 8.3 Hz), 6.49 (1H, m); MS (+ve ion electrospray) m/z 518 (MH⁺, 100%).

Reference Example 2 - Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate

22-Deoxy-22-sulfanylpleuromutilin (US Patent 4130709, 1978) (0.1 g, 0.00025 mole) in
5 ethanol (4 ml) was treated with sodium methoxide (0.014 g, 0.0026 mole) and the
resulting mixture stirred for 30 minutes. A solution of *endo*-3-methanesulfonyloxy-8-
methyl-8-azabicyclo [3.2.1] octane (prepared from *endo*-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo [3.2.1] octan-3-ol and methanesulfonyl chloride) (0.061 g, 0.00028 mole) in ethanol (1 ml)
was then added. Stirring was continued for 68 hours; a further portion of *endo*-3-
10 methanesulfonyloxy-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo [3.2.1] octane (0.061 g, 0.00028 mole) was
then added and stirring continued for a further 18 hours. The mixture was then diluted
with dichloromethane, washed twice with aqueous potassium carbonate, once with
brine, dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. Chromatography on
silica gel eluting with chloroform/methanol/35% ammonia solution (9:1:0:1) gave the
15 title compound 0.035 g (27%), identical to the compound described in Reference
Example 1.

(A) PROCESS

20 It will be appreciated that, unless otherwise indicated, in the following examples each
of the intermediates and final compounds may be prepared by any of the alternative
procedures described.

Example 1A - Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate

Step 1a - Preparation of pleuromutilin-22-mesylate
Pleuromutilin (222.0g, 0.59mol) was dissolved in dichloromethane (2.25L) under
nitrogen and triethylamine (92mL, 66.45g, 0.66mol) was added at ambient temperature
30 over 15min, during which time a slight exotherm (16.5 to 18.5°C) was observed. After
stirring for 30min the solution was cooled to -15°C over 20min. A solution of methane
sulphonyl chloride (52mL, 77.5g, 0.68mol) in dichloromethane (430mL) was added
over 1.28h at -9 to -15°C. The mixture was left to stir in the ice/salt bath at ~ -9°C
initially. The mixture was stirred for a total of 1.5h during which time it warmed up to
35 1°C. Deionized water (1.15L) was added slowly while maintaining the temperature
below 12°C. The mixture was stirred for 20 min and the phases separated. The
dichloromethane phase (wt = 3.70kg) containing the title compound (267.8g at 100%
yield) was used directly in Step 5a.

40 **Step 1b - Alternative preparation of pleuromutilin-22-mesylate**

Pleuromutilin (69.95g at 90% purity) and triethylamine (26mL, 18.33g) in dichloromethane (0.55L) were cooled to -10°C. Methane sulphonyl chloride (14.5mL, 20.87g) in dichloromethane (0.12L) was added over 0.5h at -5 to -10°C. After 0.5h the mixture was warmed to 15-20°C and water (0.25L) added. The phases were separated

5 and the aqueous phase was further extracted with dichloromethane (0.06L). The combined dichloromethane solution was concentrated by distillation collecting 0.5L. The distillation was continued by slowly adding propan-2-ol (0.3L) and collecting a further 0.3L to reach a solution temperature of 78°C. n-Heptane (0.29L) was added slowly whilst maintaining the temperature between 75-80°C. The solution became

10 turbid with the product crystallizing. The mixture was cooled to 0°C and stirred for 1h. The product was filtered off, washed with chilled 2:1 n-heptane/propan-2-ol (0.075L) and dried under vacuum to give the title compound (75.33g, 95.6%).

Step 1c - Alternative preparation of pleuromutilin-22-mesylate

15 Pleuromutilin (20.1g) and triethylamine (6.86g) in methylisobutyl ketone (0.21L) were cooled to -10°C. Methane sulphonyl chloride (7.91g) in methylisobutyl ketone (0.04L) was added at -5 to -10°C. After 1h water (0.12L) was added and the mixture was warmed to 20-22°C. The phases were separated and the methylisobutyl ketone phase was washed successively with water (0.09L) and 10% brine (0.05L). The

20 methylisobutyl ketone solution was concentrated by distillation under reduced pressure to leave a residue of 57.4g. Heptane (0.06L) was added to the residue at 76-78°C to crystallize the title compound. Further heptane (0.04L) was added, the mixture was cooled to -5 to -8°C and stirred for 1h. The title compound was filtered off, washed with chilled heptane/methylisobutyl ketone (3:1, 0.028L) and dried at < 40°C to give

25 21.94g, 90.5% yield.

Step 2a - Preparation of tropine-3-mesylate

Tropine (500 g, 3.54mol) and triethylamine (590mL, 430g, 4.25 mol) were mixed in dichloromethane (10L) and cooled to < -5°C under a stream of nitrogen. A solution of

30 methane sulphonyl chloride (329mL, 487g, 4.25 mol) in dichloromethane (2L) was added over 4.33h between -10.4 and -4.9°C. The mixture was stirred for 15min, the cooling bath removed, and potassium carbonate solution (2.5 L, GB98596-043) and deionised water (1.25L) were added. The additions took 4min and caused an exotherm raising the temperature to 2.8°C. The mixture was warmed to 15 to 20°C, filtered and

35 the phases allowed to separate. The aqueous phase was extracted further with dichloromethane (2.5L). The combined organic phases were heated to distil off dichloromethane at atmospheric pressure; 10L were collected over 1.75h reaching a base temp. of 42.8°C and vapour temperature of 42°C. Hexane (7.5L) was added and after allowing the mixture to cool (overnight) the mixture was filtered and the filtrate

40 returned to a clean flask. The solution was reheated to distil at atmospheric pressure; 7.5L were collected up to base and vapour temperatures of 60.5 and 62°C

respectively. The mixture was cooled to 0 to 5°C, stirred for 1h, the product filtered off and washed with hexane (1.5L). The product was dried under vacuum in a dessicator. Crystallisation from ethyl acetate/hexane or dichloromethane/hexane gave crystalline title compound which was then used in Step 3.

5

Step 2b - Alternative preparation of tropine-3-mesylate

Tropine (50g) and triethylamine (60mL, 43.56g) in dichloromethane (1L) were cooled to -10°C. Methane sulphonyl chloride (36mL, 53.28g) in dichloromethane (0.2L) was added over 1h at -5 +/- 2°C. After 0.5h a solution of potassium carbonate (150g) in water (0.4L) was added and the mixture warmed to 20°C. The phases were separated and the aqueous phase extracted with further dichloromethane (1 x 0.2L). The combined dichloromethane solution was concentrated by distillation collecting 1L. n-Heptane (0.875L) was added and the mixture stirred for 0.5h. The solution was decanted off and then concentrated by distillation at 610 to 650mbar until a solution 10 temperature of 63°C was reached. The solution was cooled to 0°C with crystallization occurring during the cooling. The mixture was stirred for 1h, the product isolated by filtration, washed and dried at <30°C to give the title compound (60.62g, 78.1%).

15

Step 2c - Alternative preparation of tropine-3-mesylate

Tropine (50g) and diisopropylethylamine (48.05g) in dichloromethane (0.5L) were cooled to -10°C. Methane sulphonyl chloride (44.7g) in dichloromethane (0.125L) was added over 0.75h at < -5°C. After 0.5h a solution of potassium carbonate (75g) in water (0.2L) was added and the mixture warmed to 20°C. The phases were separated and the dichloromethane solution concentrated by distillation under reduced pressure 20 at < 20°C to leave a residue whereby the dichloromethane content was 51% w/w. Heptane (0.05L) was added and the solution cooled to 0°C to crystallize the title compound. Further heptane (0.45L) was added and the mixture kept under vacuum (350mbar) at 20-25°C until the dichloromethane content was 8% w/w. The mixture was cooled to 0°C and stirred for 1h. The product was isolated by filtration, washed and 25 dried at <30°C to give the title compound (68.5g, 88.1%).

30

Step 3a - Preparation of tropine-3-xanthate

Tropine-3-mesylate (243.6g, 1.11mol) and sodium ethylxanthate (245.1g, 1.70mol) were added to stirred toluene (1.25L) at 36°C under nitrogen. The mixture was reheated to 35-37°C (from 30°C) where it was maintained overnight (~18h). The oilbath was removed and water (500mL) added. After 2h stirring the mixture was filtered and the phases separated. The toluene phase was washed with deionised water (1 x 500mL, 1 x 300mL). The yield was found to be 192.36g, 70.6%, based on 35 14.42% w/w in solution, by LC analysis against a reference standard. The solution was 40 stored at 4°C prior to use in Step 4a.

Step 3b - Alternative Preparation of tropine-3-xanthate

Tropine-3-mesylate (25g, 0.114mol) and sodium ethylxanthate (19.7g, 0.137mol) were added to stirred toluene (0.075L) under nitrogen. The stirred mixture was maintained at 30°C for 6h. Water (0.05L) was added and after 15min stirring the phases were

5 separated. The toluene phase, containing the title compound, was used directly in the preparation of tropine-3-thiol as in Step 4b.

Step 4a - Preparation of tropine-3-thiol

The toluene solution of xanthate (Step 3a) and a solution of sodium hydroxide (94.88g,

10 2.37mol) in ethanol (950mL) were mixed and heated to 32 -33°C over 30min. Samples were taken periodically for analysis by LC and LC/MS; after 4h the reaction was found to be complete (with respect to the disappearance of xanthate). The mixture was cooled to 25°C and the initial pH of >12.8 was adjusted to < 1 by the addition of 2M HCl; the addition over 1h was mildly exothermic (24 to 28°C). The phases were
15 separated and the aqueous phase (2.87L, 2.83kg) subjected to distillation under reduced pressure (Buchi rotary evaporator); 1.4L was removed using an Edwards pump and a bath temperature of 35-37°C. The residual solution of the title compound was stored at 4°C prior to use in Step 5a.

20 Step 4b - Alternative Preparation of tropine-3-thiol

The toluene solution of xanthate (Step 3b), sodium hydroxide (11.17g, 0.279mol) and ethanol (0.05L) were heated at 30°C for 6h . The mixture was cooled to 25°C and the

25 pH was adjusted to < 1.5 by the addition of 4M HCl (0.095L required). The phases were separated and the aqueous phase subjected to distillation under reduced pressure to leave a volume of ~0.09L. The residual solution of the title compound was stored at 4°C prior to use as in Step 5d.

Step 5a - Preparation of crude Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate

The aqueous solution of thiol (Step 4a), the dichloromethane solution of mesylate

30 (Step 1a) and tetra-n-butylammonium chloride (10.59g, 38.1mmol) were mixed under nitrogen (the temperature after mixing was 15°C). The pH was adjusted to 13.05 by the addition of 980mL of a sodium hydroxide solution (made up from 140g in 1.75L of water); during the addition time of 1h the temperature was maintained at 15°C. The mixture was stirred at 12 to 15°C and after 40min, 1 and 2h further portions of sodium
35 hydroxide solution were added to adjust the pH from ~12.7 to 13.05. LC analysis after 2h showed 0.6% (PAR) residual mesylate. The mixture was stirred for a further 1.58h, the phases separated and water (2L) was added to the dichloromethane solution (the pH of the resultant aqueous phase was 11.75). The pH was adjusted to 6.29 by the addition of 1M HCl (490mL). The phases were separated and the dichloromethane
40 solution washed by stirring (15min) with 2L of saturated sodium bicarbonate solution

(made up from 200.g in 2L deionised water). After separation the dichloromethane solution (2.88kg) was concentrated using a Buchi rotary evaporator (bath temperature 34-36°C) to leave a yellow foam residue of 307.26g.

5 **Step 5b - Alternative preparation of crude Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate**
Pleuromutilin-22-mesylate (11g, 24.09 mMol) and n-Bu₄NHSO₄ (360.3mg, 1.3 mMol) in MIBK (130mL) and tropine-3-thiol in HCl (6.3% w/w, 73.9g, ~4.65g tropine-3-thiol, 29.58 mMol) were mixed at 20-22°C under nitrogen. The pH (~1) of the stirred mixture

10 was adjusted to 12.8 by the addition of 2M NaOH solution (37mL) over approximately 20min. The pH was re-adjusted 1h later from 12.4 to 12.8 by the addition of 2M NaOH (1mL) the reaction was followed by chromatography until complete. The aqueous phase was separated and discarded. Water (60mL) was added and the pH adjusted to 7.3 to 7.5 (from 11.4) by the addition of 2M HCl (9.5mL). The aqueous phase was

15 separated and discarded. Water (60mL) was added and the pH adjusted to 1.25 by the addition of 2M HCl (13mL). After separation, the pH of the lower aqueous phase was adjusted to 7.25 using 12mL of 2M NaOH, at which point the mixture became cloudy and on seeding crystallization occurred. After 20min stirring, further 2M NaOH was added to adjust the pH to 9.5 to 10 to precipitate the remaining product. After

20 30min stirring the product was isolated by filtration, washed with water (25mL) and dried (10.8g, 86.6% by weight).

Step 5c - Alternative preparation of crude Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate

25 Pleuromutilin-22-mesylate (40g) and tetra-butylammonium hydrogensulfate (1.4g) were dissolved in methyl-iso-butyl ketone (200mL) at 20-25°C. Tropine-3-thiol (hydrochloride salt) (20.36g @ 100%) was added as an aqueous solution. The pH was adjusted to 13-13.5 using 4M sodium hydroxide solution (~100mL) and the mixture stirred until the reaction was complete. The aqueous phase was discarded and water

30 (100mL) added. The pH was adjusted to 8.3 ± 0.2 by the addition of 4M hydrochloric acid solution (~11mL). The aqueous phase was discarded, further water (200mL) added and the pH adjusted to < 4 by the addition of 4M hydrochloric acid solution (~25mL). The MIBK phase was discarded and the pH of the aqueous phase was adjusted to 7.5 by the addition of 4M sodium hydroxide. A seed of mutilin 14-(exo-8-

35 methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate (40mg) was added and the mixture stirred until crystallization occurred (typically <30min). Further 4M sodium hydroxide solution (a total of 26mL was used for both adjustments) was added over 1h. The slurry was stirred for 1h, the product isolated, washed with water (80mL) and dried under vacuum (50°C) to give 44.83g of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate (assay of 92.9%, yield from pleuromutilin-22-mesylate of 92.0%).

Step 5d - Alternative preparation of crude Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate

Pleuromutilin-22-mesylate (50g) and tetra-butylammonium hydrogensulfate (1.75g)

5 were dissolved in methyl-iso-butyl ketone (250mL) at 20-25°C. Tropine-3-thiol (hydrochloride salt) (28.65g @ 100%), prepared as in Step 4b, was added as an aqueous solution. The pH was adjusted to 13-13.5 using 5M sodium hydroxide solution (~95mL) and the mixture stirred until the reaction was complete. The pH was adjusted to 8.3 ± 0.2 by the addition of 5.5M hydrochloric acid solution (~24mL). The 10 aqueous phase was discarded, further water (200mL) added and the pH adjusted to < 4 by the addition of 5.5M hydrochloric acid solution (~25mL). The MIBK phase was discarded and the pH of the aqueous phase was adjusted to 7.5 by the addition of 5M sodium hydroxide (~6.5mL). A seed of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate (50mg) was added and the mixture stirred until crystallization 15 occurred (typically <30min). Further 5M sodium hydroxide solution (~12.5mL) was added over 1h. The slurry was stirred for 1h, the product isolated, washed with water (100mL) and dried under vacuum (40-50°C) to give the title compound in a yield of 90-95% based on assay.

20 **Step 6a - Purification of Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate**

Crude product from Step 5a (626.54g) was suspended in a stirred mixture of ethyl acetate (2.5L) and filtered, deionised water (2L). The pH was adjusted from 8.35 to 1.05 by the addition of 2M hydrochloric acid (430mL) and after stirring for about 15min

25 the phases were separated. The acidic aqueous phase was washed with further ethyl acetate (650mL). After separation the aqueous phase was stirred with dichloromethane (1.5L) and sodium bicarbonate solution (200g in 2L deionised water) for 15min. The phases were separated and the aqueous phase extracted with further dichloromethane (1L). The combined dichloromethane extracts were concentrated 30 using a Buchi rotary evaporator (bath temperature of 40°C and Edwards pump) to leave a residue of 266.33g. This was dissolved in 2-propanol (900mL) by heating to 60°C and the solution filtered. The filtrate was heated to reflux and deionised water (1.23L) added to give a slightly turbid solution at 60°C. On reheating to 62°C this became clear; the solution was allowed to cool overnight to ambient temperature to 35 give crystalline product. Further filtered deionised water (200mL) was added slowly to the mixture, which was then cooled to 5°C and stirred for 1.25h. The product was filtered off, washed with a chilled 3:2 mixture of water/2-propanol (250mL) and dried in a dessicator under high vacuum for 64h, to give title compound 201.5g (66.5% from pleuromutilin).

Step 6b - Alternative purification of Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate

Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate (10.5g), prepared as in Step 5b, c or d, was heated to 80°C in isopropyl acetate (41mL) (a solution is obtained at 55-60°C) to give a cloudy solution. The solution was filtered (~0.78g of solids collected) and allowed to cool to 50°C. The solution was then seeded and cooled to 47-48°C. The solution became cloudy and crystallization occurred. The solution was cooled to 0°C and the temperature was maintained for 2h. The product was filtered off, washed with (1) chilled isopropyl acetate (5mL), (2) isopropyl acetate/heptane (10mL) and (3) heptane (10mL) and dried (6.72g, 64%).

Step 6c - Alternative purification of Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate

Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate (96.2g), prepared as in Step 5b, c or d, was heated to 65-70°C in propan-2-ol (335mL) until a solution was obtained. The solution was filtered and cooled to 35-38°C. The solution was then seeded and stirred at 35-38°C for 30min to allow crystallization to occur. The solution was cooled to -5 to -10°C over 3h. The title compound was isolated by filtration, washed successively with heptane/propan-2-ol (2:1) and heptane and dried under to vacuum at 35-40°C to give 72g, 75%.

Example 1B - Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate

25 Step 1 - Preparation of crude Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate

Tropine-3-mesylate (6.0kg) and potassium thioacetate (9.4kg) were heated in a mixture of pyridine (24.0kg) and water (1.2kg) at 35-40°C for 37.75h. The mixture was cooled to 20-25°C, *tert*-butyl methyl ether (35.5kg) added and the mixture stirred for 0.5h. It was filtered with further *tert*-butyl methyl ether (18.0kg) added as washings. Water (50kg) was added and the phases separated. The aqueous phase was washed with *tert*-butyl methyl ether (4 x 14.5kg) and the combined organic phases washed with saturated sodium chloride solution (14.5kg). The organic solution was concentrated by distillation, collecting 80L of distillate, ethanol (35.5kg) was added and the mixture then cooled to 8°C. Sodium methoxide (2.2kg) was added and the temperature allowed to rise to 20°C. After about 0.5h pleuromutilin-22-mesylate (4.3kg) was added and the temperature adjusted to 24°C; further pleuromutilin-22-mesylate (typically 0.34kg) may be added after 0.5 to 1.5h to complete the reaction. The solution was concentrated by distillation under reduced pressure, collecting 40L of distillate, and then cooled to 24°C. Dichloromethane (80.0kg), saturated sodium chloride solution (96.0kg) and water (15.0kg) were added. After separation the aqueous phase was washed with

dichloromethane (32.0kg). Water (25.0kg) was added to the combined organic phases and the pH adjusted to 5.68 by the addition of dilute hydrochloric acid (25L). After separation the organic phase was washed with water (25.0kg) and 9% w/w sodium bicarbonate solution (26.4kg). The organic phase was concentrated by distillation under reduced pressure collecting 50L of distillate. Ethanol (60.0kg) was added and the distillation continued collecting a further 55L of distillate. Water (22.0kg) was added and the mixture stirred for 4-5h to allow the product to crystallize. If crystallization was not achieved, the solution was concentrated further collecting 23L of distillate. It was cooled to 22°C and water (80.0kg) and ethyl acetate (72.0kg) added. After further cooling to 8°C the pH was adjusted to 1.5 by the addition of dilute hydrochloric acid (20L). After separation the acidic phase was washed with further ethyl acetate (36.0kg) which was discarded. Dichloromethane (66.6kg) was added to the acidic phase and the pH adjusted to 7.26 by the addition of ~10% w/w sodium bicarbonate solution (50.9kg). The aqueous phase was washed with further dichloromethane (33.3kg) and the combined dichloromethane solutions were concentrated by distillation under reduced pressure collecting 55L. Ethanol (58.4kg) was added and the distillation continued collecting 60L of distillate. Water (17.0kg) was added over 5.58h with crystallization occurring after 5h; further water (14.0kg) was added and the mixture stirred at 10-15°C for 3.5h. The product was isolated, washed (a mixture of water [5.0kg] and ethanol [4.0kg]) and dried to give crude mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate (3.1kg at 74.8% assay).

Step 2 - Purification of Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate

25 Crude mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate (3.1kg at 74.8%, 2.3kg at 100%) was dissolved in ethanol (10.0kg). Water (11.8kg) was added over 0.8h with crystallization occurring after 0.2h. The mixture was stirred at 12-19°C for 18h, the product isolated, washed with a mixture of water (12.0kg) and ethanol (6.4kg) and dried under vacuum to give mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate (1.6kg at 96.2%, 1.5kg at 100%, 10.6% yield from tropine-3-mesylate).

Characterizing Data

35 The infra-red spectrum, DSC thermogram and XRPD pattern of the crystalline mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate were recorded (Figures 1 to 3).

(B) SALTS

40

General Method

The acid (approximately 180mM) was suspended and stirred in ethyl acetate (1300mL) under nitrogen at 18-20°C. A filtered solution of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate (88.6g, 171.11 mM) in ethyl acetate (900mL)

5 was added over 4h at 18-21°C. The mixture was stirred for a further 19h at ambient temperature and then cooled to 2-5°C. After 1h the product was filtered off, washed with chilled ethyl acetate (175mL), pulled as dry as possible on the funnel and then dried at 45-50°C under vacuum for 68h.

10 **Example 1B**

Using the General Method described above, succinic acid (21.24g, 179.86mM) was suspended and stirred in ethyl acetate (1300mL) under nitrogen at 18-20°C. A filtered solution of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate (88.6g,

15 171.11 mM) in ethyl acetate (900mL) was added over 4h at 18-21°C. The mixture was stirred for a further 19h at ambient temperature and then cooled to 2-5°C. After 1h the product was filtered off, washed with chilled ethyl acetate (175mL), pulled as dry as possible on the funnel and then dried at 45-50°C under vacuum for 68h to yield the hydrosuccinate salt (103.5g, 95.1%).

20

Examples 2B to 4B

The General Method described above was used to prepare the hydrofumarate, hydromaleate and tosylate salts of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

25 **Example 5B**

Succinic acid (2.42g, 20.49mM) was heated in isopropanol (25mL) to give a homogeneous solution (achieved at 52-54°C). Mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate (14.4g, 20.08mM) was similarly dissolved in

30 isopropanol (83mL) by heating to 48-50°C. This solution was added to the succinic acid solution over 20min maintaining the temperature at 50-52°C. After stirring for a further 45min at 55°C the salt crystallized. The mixture was cooled to 0 to 5°C over ~1.5h and stirred for a further 1.5h. The product was filtered off, washed with chilled isopropanol (15mL) and air dried to yield the hydrosuccinate salt (11.9g, 93.26%).

35

Characterizing Data

The infra-red spectra, DSC thermograms and XRPD patterns of the salts were recorded (Figures 4 to 15).

C) COMPOSITIONS**Example 1C**

5

Step 1 - Milling of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof

A 4 inch (10.2cm) spiral air jet mill operated with a grinding pressure of 30 PSI (207 kPa) was used to obtain the target particle size. The mutilin compound was fed into 10 the mill at a rate of 1 kg/hr.

Step 2 - Formulation

Petrolatum was melted to 65°C ± 5°C. Appropriately sized particles of the drug substance were uniformly dispersed in the molten petrolatum under high shear (4000 15 rpm). The dispersion was cooled to 45°C ± 5°C under low shear (1500 rpm). The dispersion was then cooled to 25°C ± 5°C without mixing to give a smooth ointment. The scale of manufacture was 8.5 kg.

Example 2C

20

Step 1 - Milling of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof

An opposed air jet mill operated with a grinding pressure of 10 PSI, and a venturi pressure of 10 PSI was used to obtain the target particle size. The mutilin compound 25 was double passed through the mill at a rate of 10 kg/h.

Step 2 - Formulation

Petrolatum was melted to 65-70°C, with countersweep mixing (20 rpm) initiated at 45°C. The molten petrolatum was homogenized and the countersweep mixer was 30 turned off. Appropriately sized particles of the drug substance were uniformly dispersed in the molten petrolatum under high shear (1000 rpm). The counter sweep mixer (20 rpm) was reactivated and the dispersion mixed for thirty minutes. The dispersion was cooled to 50-56°C with homogenization (1000 rpm) and countersweep mixing (20 rpm). The dispersion was pumped into a holding tank and allowed to cool 35 to 20-30°C without mixing to give a smooth ointment. The scale of manufacture was 150 kg.

Example 3C

Step 1 - Milling of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof

The mutilin compound particle size was reduced to the appropriate size by double passage through a high speed impact mill, fitted with pins and operated at 14,000 rpm.

5 After milling, the drug substance was passed through a 90 µm screen.

Step 2 - Formulation

Petrolatum was pre-melted in the drum using an induction drum heater. The molten petrolatum was transferred to the processing vessel, and heating and agitation (30 rpm) were initiated. When the temperature reached 65-70°C, high shear homogenization (3000 rpm) was initiated and the recirculation loop was engaged. After mixing for five minutes, the recirculation loop was closed, and agitation and homogenization were terminated. Homogenization was initiated at lower speed (1500 rpm). Upon vortex formation, appropriately sized particles of the drug were uniformly dispersed in the molten petrolatum. The batch was mixed for 20-30 minutes, with high shear homogenization (3000 rpm), agitation (30 rpm), and with the recirculation loop engaged. The product was then cooled. At 48-50°C, homogenization speed was reduced to 1500 rpm. Remaining product in the recirculation loop was pulled back into the vessel, and the recirculation loop was closed and homogenization stopped. The product was cooled to 34-40°C, and agitation was maintained at 30 rpm. The dispersion was discharged to a conical holding vessel under homogenization and agitation to give a smooth ointment. The scale of manufacture was 250 kg.

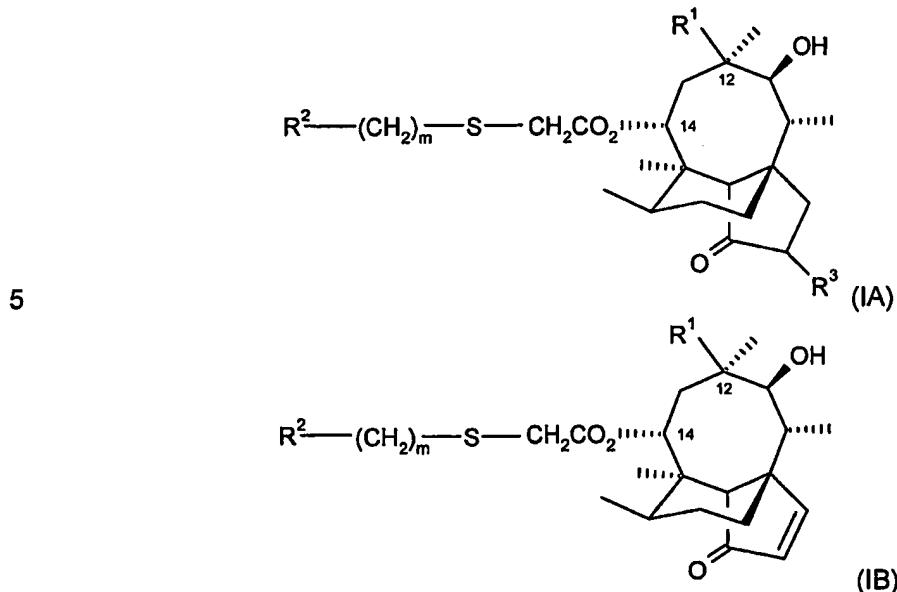
The above methods may be used to prepare the following compositions:

25

Strength (% w/w):	0.5%	1.0%	2.0%
Drug substance: mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate (milled)	5g	10g	20g
Ointment base: petrolatum (USP or Ph.Eur.)	qs 1000g	qs 1000g	qs 1000g

What is claimed is:

1. A process for preparing a compound of formula (IA) or (IB):



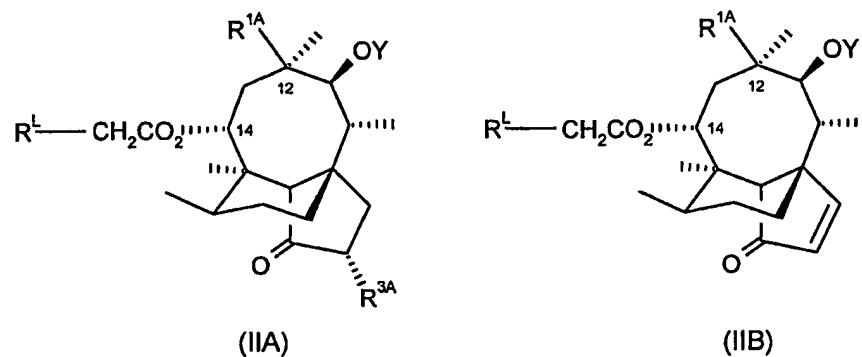
in which:

m is 0, 1 or 2;

R¹ is vinyl or ethyl;

10 R² is an optionally substituted non-aromatic monocyclic or bicyclic group containing one or two basic nitrogen atoms and attached through a ring carbon atom;
 R³ is H or OH; or
 a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof;

15 which process comprises reacting a compound of formula (IIA) or (IIB):



in which:

20 Y is hydrogen or a hydroxy protecting group;

R^{1A} and R^{3A} are R¹ and R³ as defined for formulae (IA) and (IB) or groups convertible to R¹ and R³; and
 R^L is a leaving group, OH or NH₂;

5 with a thiol compound of formula (III):



in which:

10 R^{2A} is R² as defined for formulae (IA) and (IB) or a group convertible to R², and
 m is as defined for formulae (IA) and (IB);
 in a phase transfer catalysis system;
 and thereafter, where required or desired,
 converting Y to hydrogen,
 15 converting an R^{1A}, R^{2A} or R^{3A} group to an R¹, R² or R³ group, and/or
 converting one R¹, R² or R³ group to another R¹, R² or R³ group.

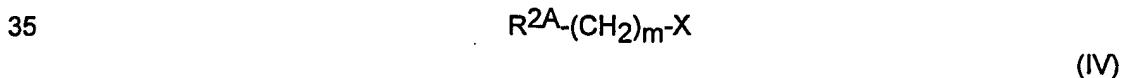
2. A process as claimed in claim 1 in which m is 0 or 1.

20 3. A process as claimed in claim 1 in which R² is azabicyclo[3.2.1]octyl optionally substituted by alkyl.

4. A process as claimed in claim 1 in which R^L is a leaving group selected from 4-CH₃C₆H₄SO₂O (tosylate), CH₃SO₂O (mesylate), F₃CSO₂O, I, Br and Cl.

25 5. A process as claimed in claim 1 in which the phase transfer catalysis system comprises a solution of a compound of formula (IIA) or (IIB) and a phase transfer catalyst in an organic solvent, an acidic aqueous solution of a thiol compound of formula (III) or an aqueous solution of an acid addition salt of a thiol compound of
 30 formula (III), and an aqueous solution of an inorganic base.

6. A process for preparing a compound of formula (III) as defined in claim 1 which process comprises hydrolysis of a compound of formula (IV):



in which:

R^{2A} is R² as defined for formulae (IA) and (IB) in claim 1 or a group convertible to R²;
 m is as defined for formulae (IA) and (IB) in claim 1; and
 40 X is -SCSOC(1-6)alkyl.

7. A process as claimed in claim 6 in which X is $-\text{SCSOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$.
8. A process for preparing a compound of formula (IV) as defined in claim 6 which process comprises reacting a compound of formula (IV) in which X is a leaving group with a xanthate salt.
5
9. A process for preparing a compound of formula (IV) as defined in claim 6 which process comprises reacting a compound of formula (IV) in which X is a leaving group with a thioacetate salt.
10
10. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IA) or (IB) as defined in claim 1 which process comprises, as an early step, the preparation of a thiol compound of formula (III) from a compound of formula (IV) in which X is a xanthate group.
15
11. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IA) or (IB) as defined in claim 1 which process comprises, as an early step, the preparation of a compound of formula (IV) in which X is a xanthate group from a compound of formula (IV) in which X is mesylate.
20
12. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IA) or (IB) as defined in claim 1 which process comprises, as an early step, the preparation of a compound of formula (IV) in which X is a mesylate group from a compound of formula (IV) in which X is hydroxy.
25
13. A process as claimed in claim 1 for preparing mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.
30
14. An acid addition salt of a compound of formula (III) as defined in claim 1.
35
15. A compound of formula (IV) in which X = $-\text{SCSOC}(1\text{-}6)\text{alkyl}$ or an acid addition salt thereof.
35
16. Crystalline mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate characterised in that it provides:
35
(i) an infra-red spectrum measured by ATR (attenuated total reflectance) containing peaks at 3234, 1735 and 1725 cm^{-1} , and/or
(ii) a DSC (differential scanning calorimetry) profile having an endotherm with an onset temperature of 125 - 127°C, and/or
40 (iii) an XRPD (X-ray powder diffraction) pattern having peaks at about 9.6, about 12.8, about 13.9 and about 19.6.

17. A pharmaceutically acceptable salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate selected from the acetate, p-aminobenzoate, ascorbate, aspartate, benzenesulfonate, benzoate, bicarbonate,

5 bismethylenesalicylate, bisulfate, bitartrate, borate, calcium edetate, camsylate, carbonate, clavulanate, citrate, cyclohexylsulfamate, dihydrochloride, edetate, edisylate, estolate, esylate, ethanedisulfonate, ethanesulfonate, formate, fumarate, gluceptate, gluconate, glutamate, glycollate, glycolylarsanilate, hexylresorcinate, hydrabamine, hydrobromide, hydrochloride, hydrofumarate, hydrogen phosphate,

10 hydroiodide, hydromaleate, hydrosuccinate, hydroxynaphthoate, isethionate, itaconate, lactate, lactobionate, laurate, malate, maleate, mandelate, mesylate, methylbromide, methylnitrate, methylsulfate, monopotassium maleate, mucate, napsylate, nitrate, N-methylglucamine, oxalate, oxaloacetate, pamoate (embonate), palmitate, palmitate, pantothenate, phosphate/diphosphate, piruvate, polygalacturonate, propionate,

15 saccharate, salicylate, stearate, subacetate, succinate, sulfate, tannate, tartrate, teoclolate, tosylate, triethiodide, trifluoroacetate and valerate salts, or a solvate thereof.

18. A salt according to claim 17 selected from the hydrosuccinate, hydrofumarate, hydromaleate and tosylate salts.

20

19. A salt according to claim 17 which is the hydrosuccinate salt.

20. A salt according to claim 17 wherein the salt is in crystalline form.

25

21. A salt according to claim 18 which is a crystalline hydrosuccinate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate characterised in that it provides:

(i) an infra-red spectrum measured by ATR (attenuated total reflectance) containing peaks at 3470, 1731 and 1711 cm⁻¹, and/or

30 (ii) a DSC (differential scanning calorimetry) profile having an endotherm with an onset temperature of 168 -170 °C, and/or

(iii) an XRPD (X-ray powder diffraction) pattern having peaks at about 13.4, about 14.4 and about 20.7.

35

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a salt as claimed in claim 18, or a solvate thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

23. A salt as claimed in claim 18, or a solvate thereof, for use in therapy.

40

24. Use of a salt as claimed in claim 18, or a solvate thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a microbial infection.

25. Use according to claim 24 wherein the microbial infection is a skin or soft tissue infection.

5 26. A method of treating microbial infections in animals, especially in humans and in domesticated mammals, which comprises administering a salt according to claim 18, or a solvate thereof, or a composition according to the invention, to a patient in need thereof.

10 27. A method of treatment of skin and soft tissue infections in humans, which comprises topically administering a salt according to claim 18, or a solvate thereof, or a composition according to the invention, to a patient in need thereof.

15 28. A process for preparing a salt as claimed in claim 18 or a solvate thereof, which process comprises mixing a solution or suspension of the acid with a solution of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate.

20 29. A pharmaceutical composition for topical administration comprising mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

25 30. A method of treating microbial infections in animals, especially in humans and in domesticated mammals, which comprises topically administering mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

30 31. Use of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof in the preparation of a medicament for use in the treatment of microbial infections, which medicament is administered topically.

35 32. A pharmaceutical composition for topical administration comprising:
(a) mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof in particulate form wherein D_{90} is from 15 to 40 μm , and
(b) an ointment base.

40 33. A composition according to claim 32 comprising mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or the hydrosuccinate salt of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate, or a solvate thereof.

34. A composition according to claim 32 wherein D₅₀ is from 5 to 15 µm.
35. A composition according to claim 32 wherein D₉₀ is from 15 to 25 µm.
- 5 36. A composition according to claim 32 wherein the ointment base is petrolatum.
37. A composition according to claim 32 containing from 0.5 to 2% w/w of particles in ointment base.
- 10 38. A composition as claimed in claim 32 for use in therapy.
39. Use of a composition as claimed in claim 32 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a microbial infection.
- 15 40. Use according to claim 39 wherein the microbial infection is a skin or soft tissue infection.
41. A method of treating microbial infections in animals, especially in humans and 20 in domesticated mammals, which comprises administering a composition according to claim 32 to a patient in need thereof.
42. A method of treatment of skin and soft tissue infections in humans, which comprises topically administering a composition as claimed in claim 32 to a patient in 25 need thereof.
43. A process for preparing a composition as claimed in claim 29 which process comprises mixing the particles with an ointment base.
- 30 44. Use of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of microbial infections, which medicament is administered bid.
- 35 45. A method of treating microbial infections in animals, especially in humans and in domesticated mammals, which comprises administering mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof bid.
- 40 46. A method of treating microbial infections in animals, especially in humans and in domesticated mammals, which comprises administering mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-

8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof for 5 to 7 days.

47. Use of mutilin 14-(exo-8-methyl-8-azabicyclo[3.2.1]oct-3-ylsulfanyl)-acetate or
5 a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof in the preparation of a
medicament for use in the treatment of microbial infections, which medicament is
administered for 5 to 7 days.

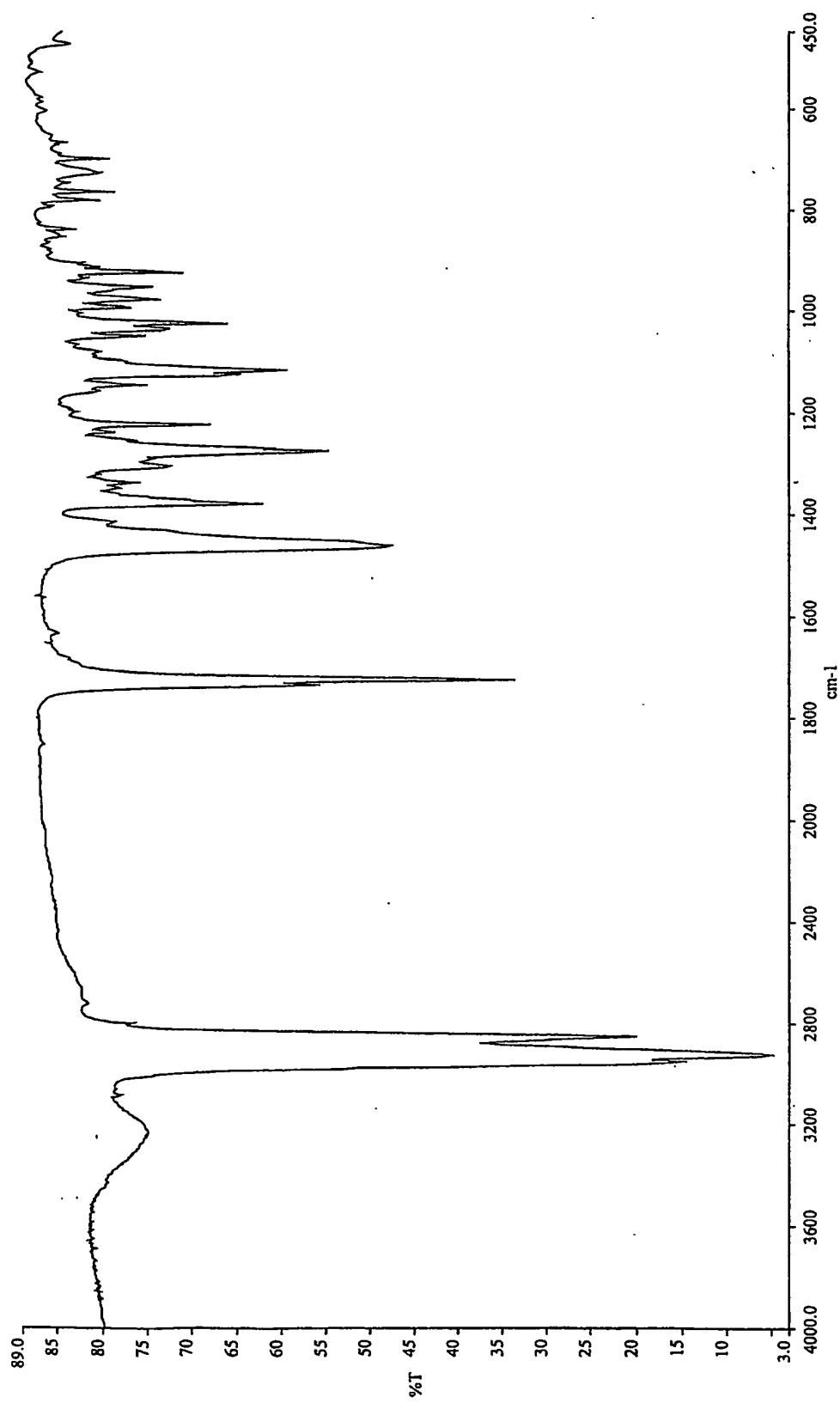


Figure 1

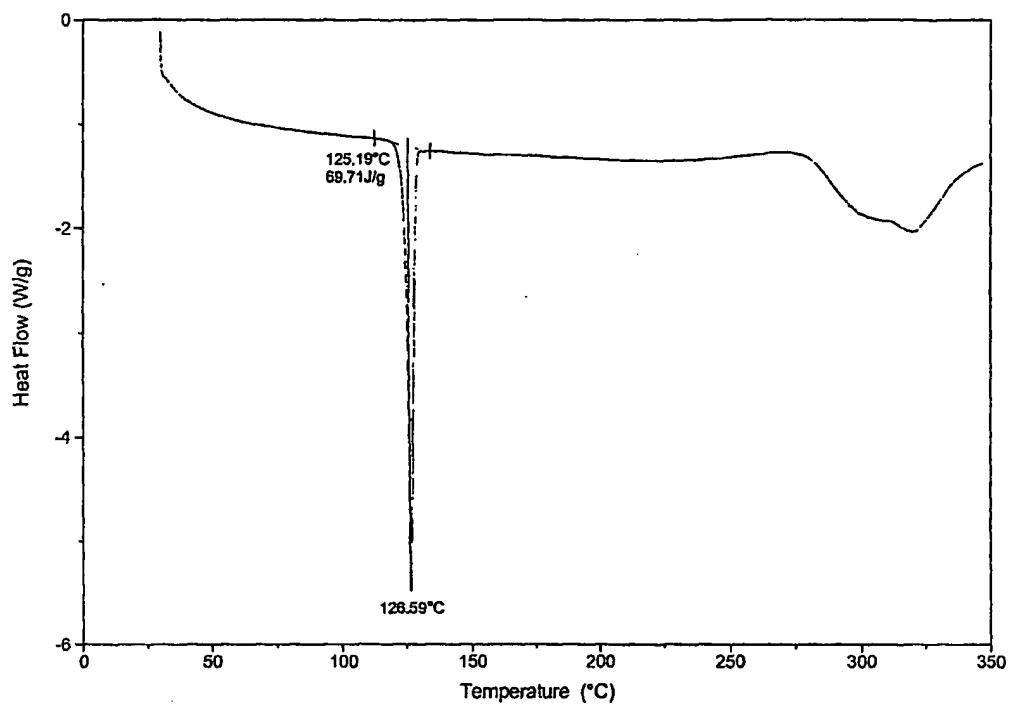


Figure 2

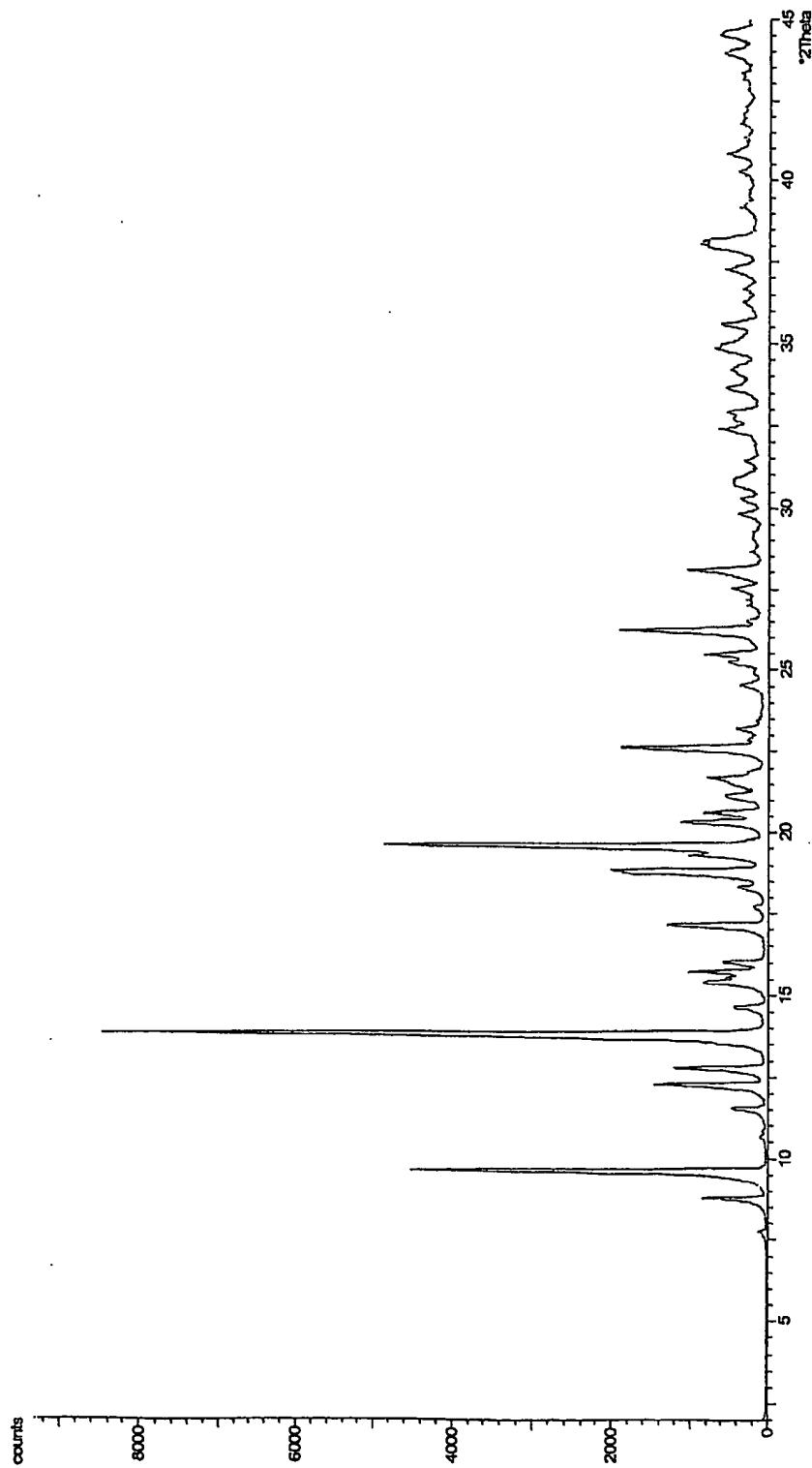


Figure 3

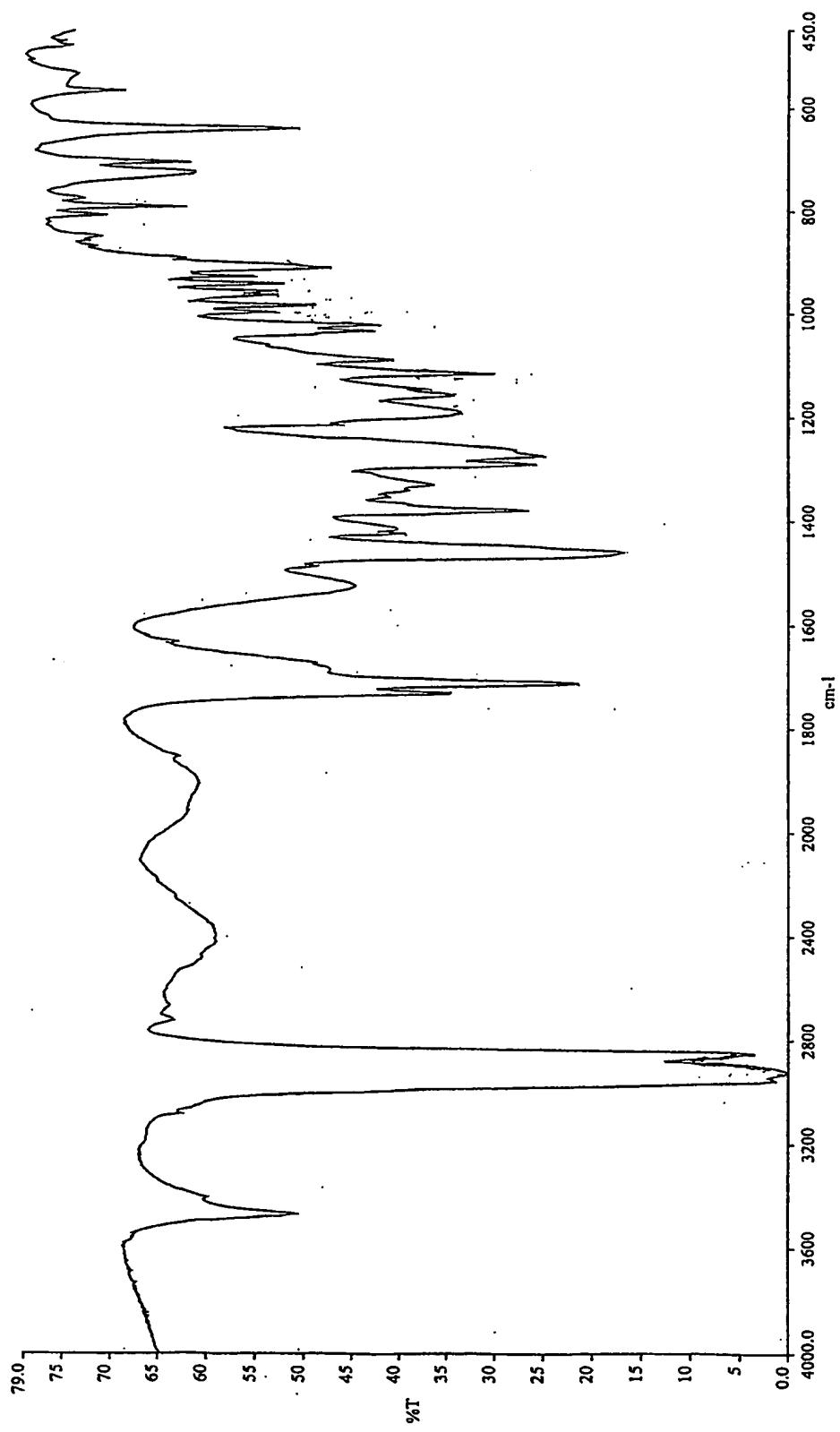


Figure 4

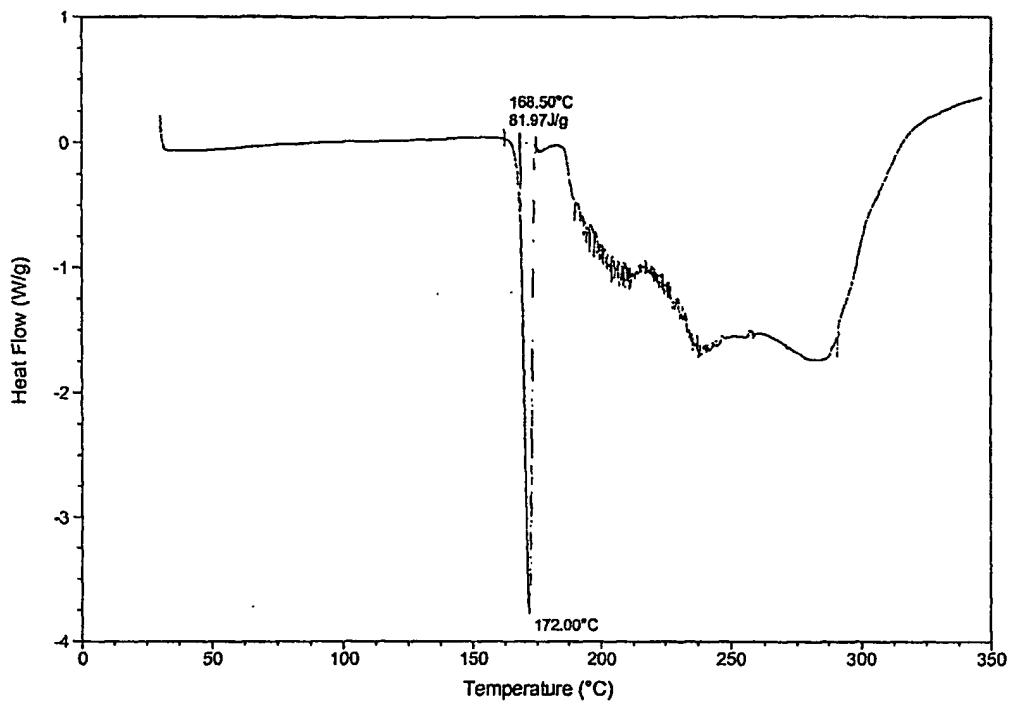


Figure 5

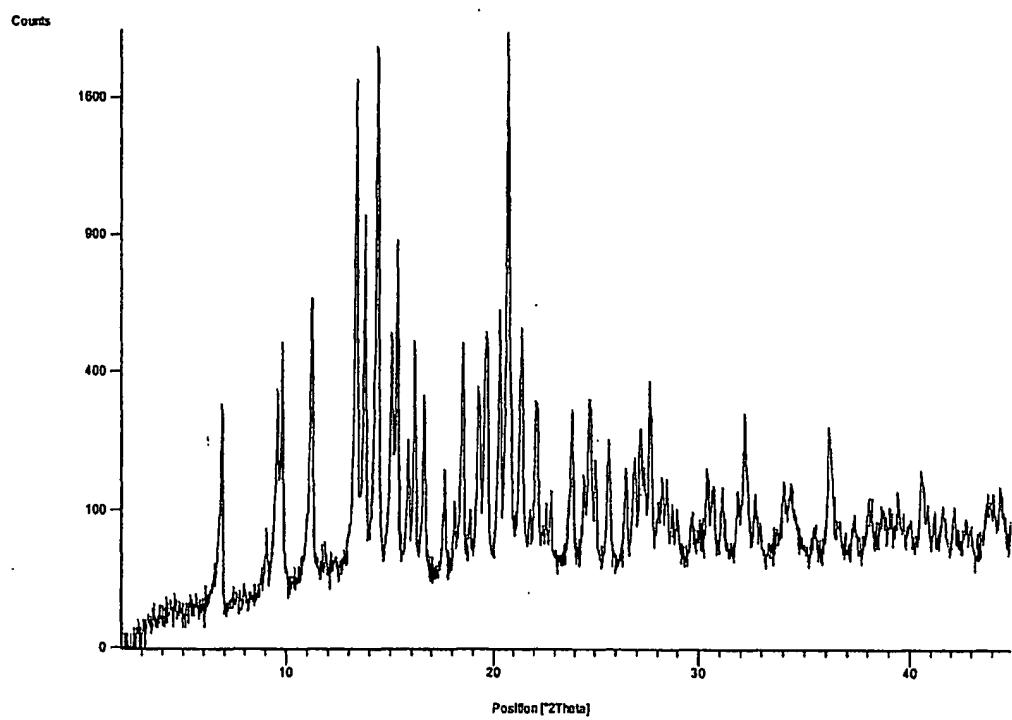


Figure 6

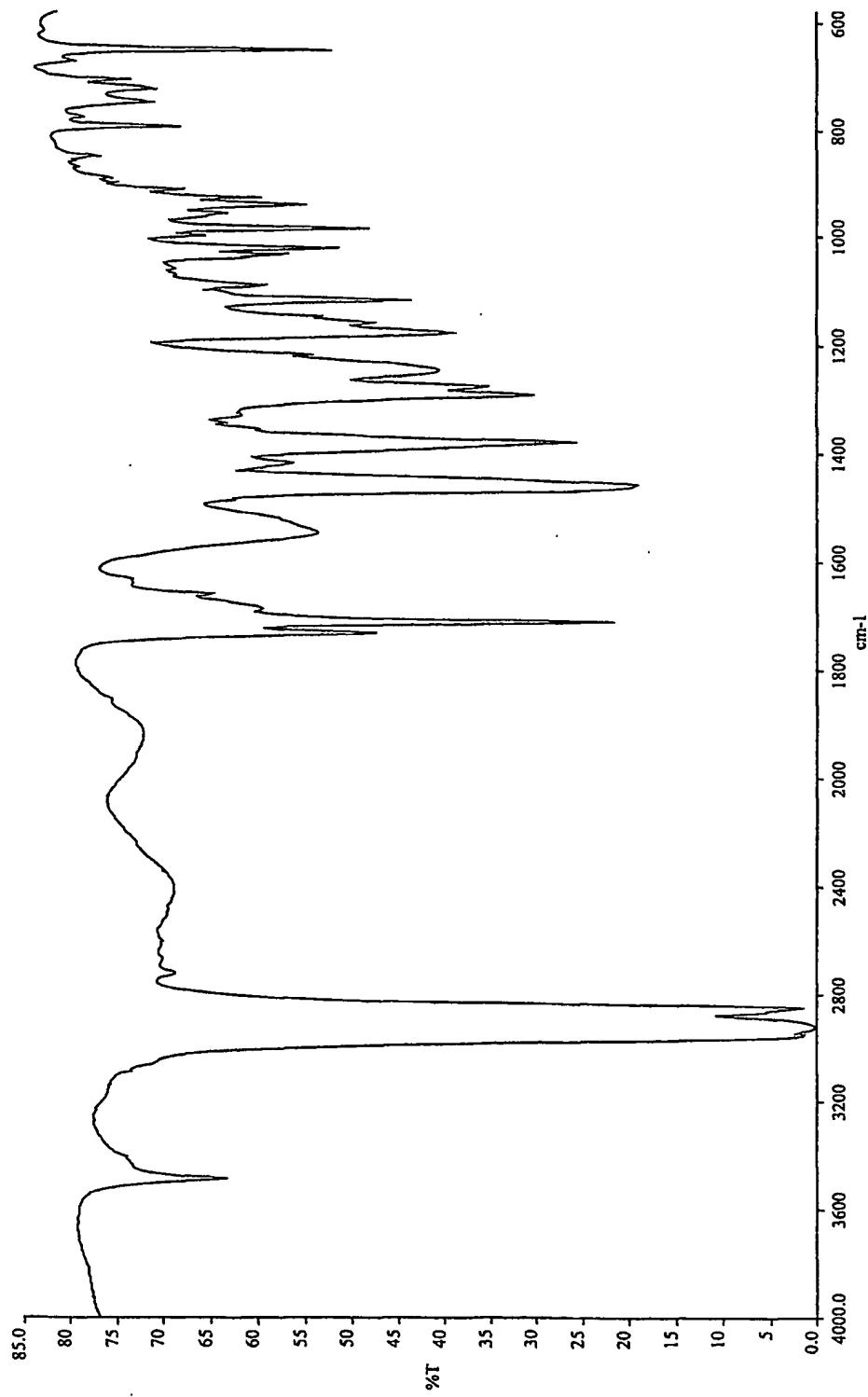


Figure 7

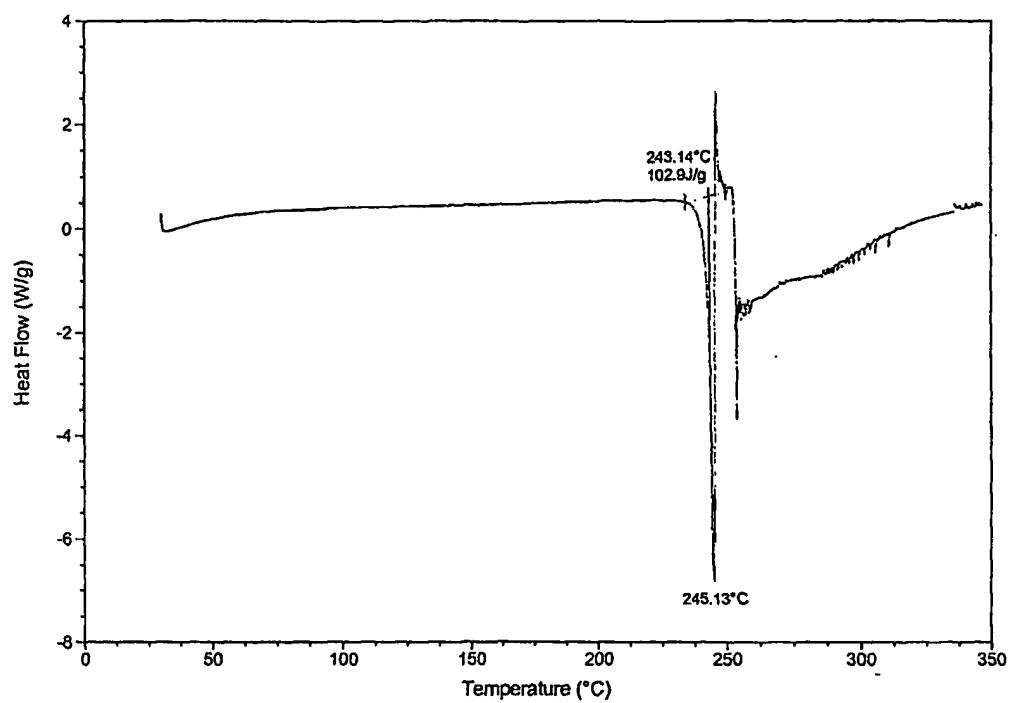


Figure 8

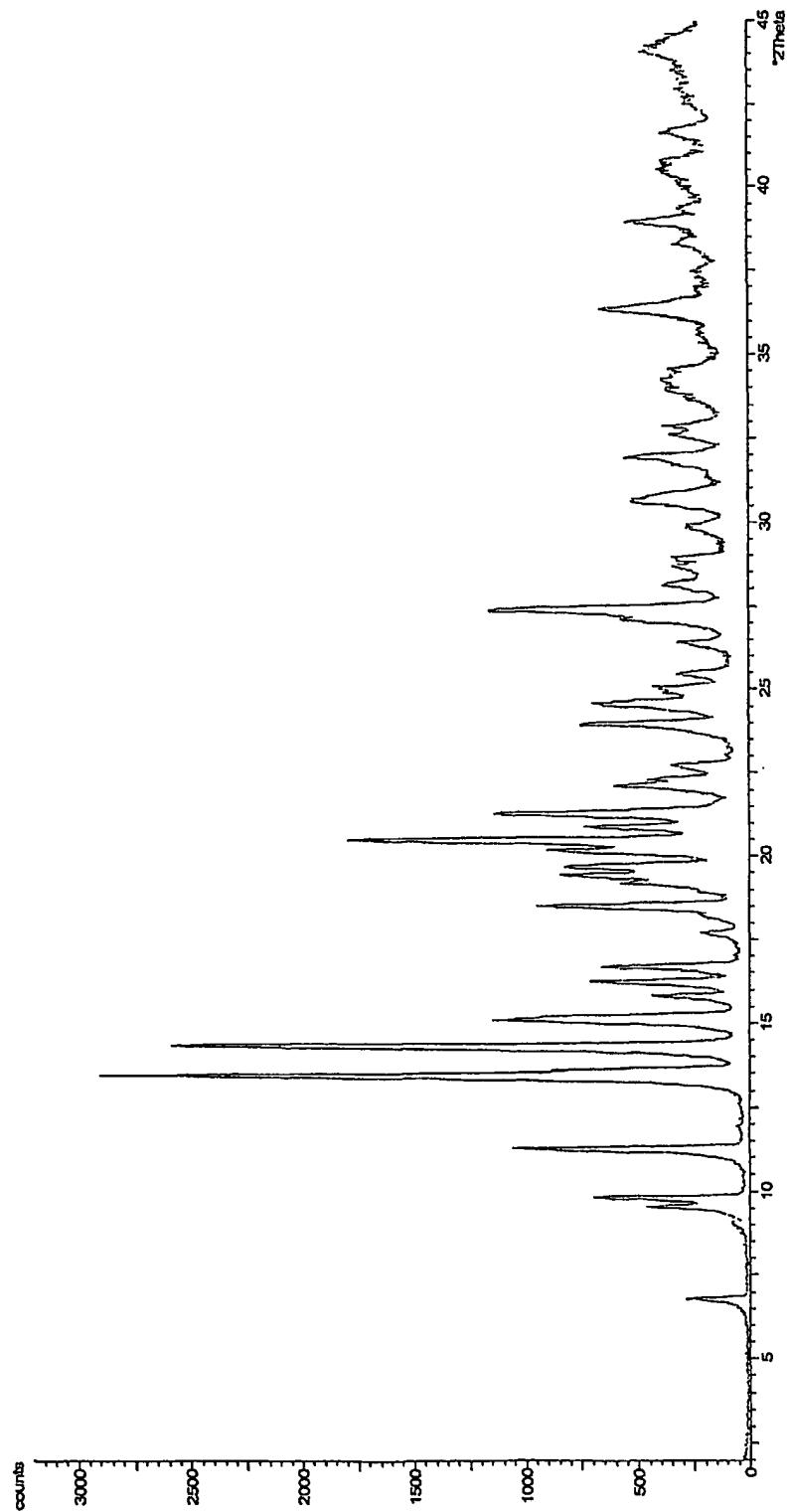


Figure 9

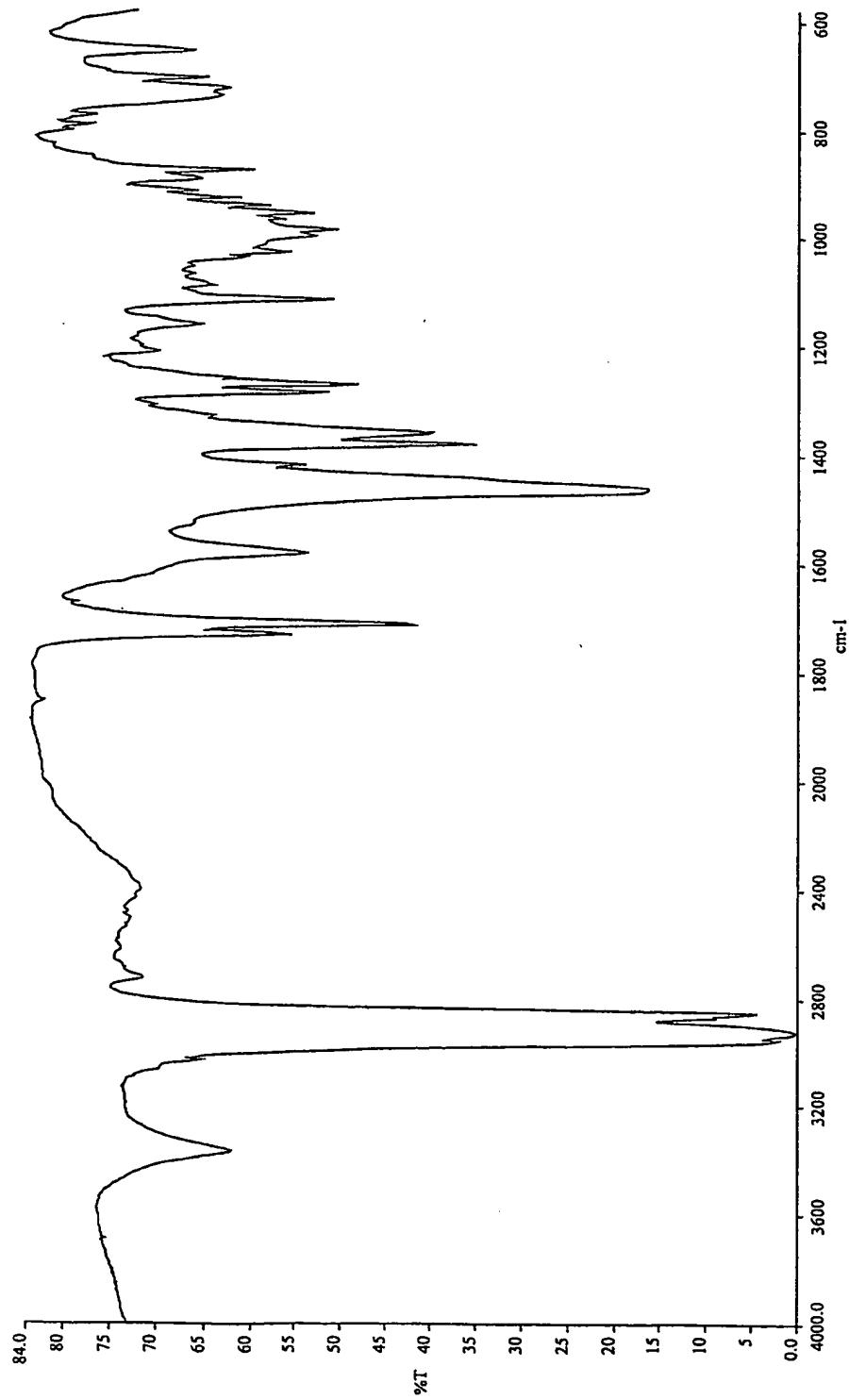


Figure 10

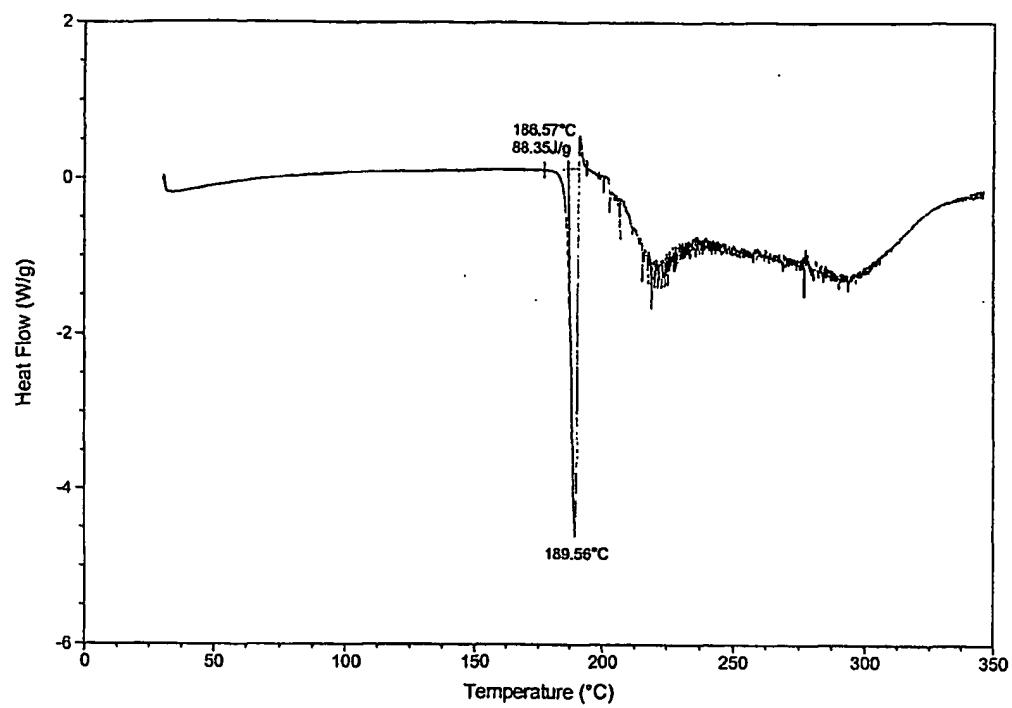


Figure 11

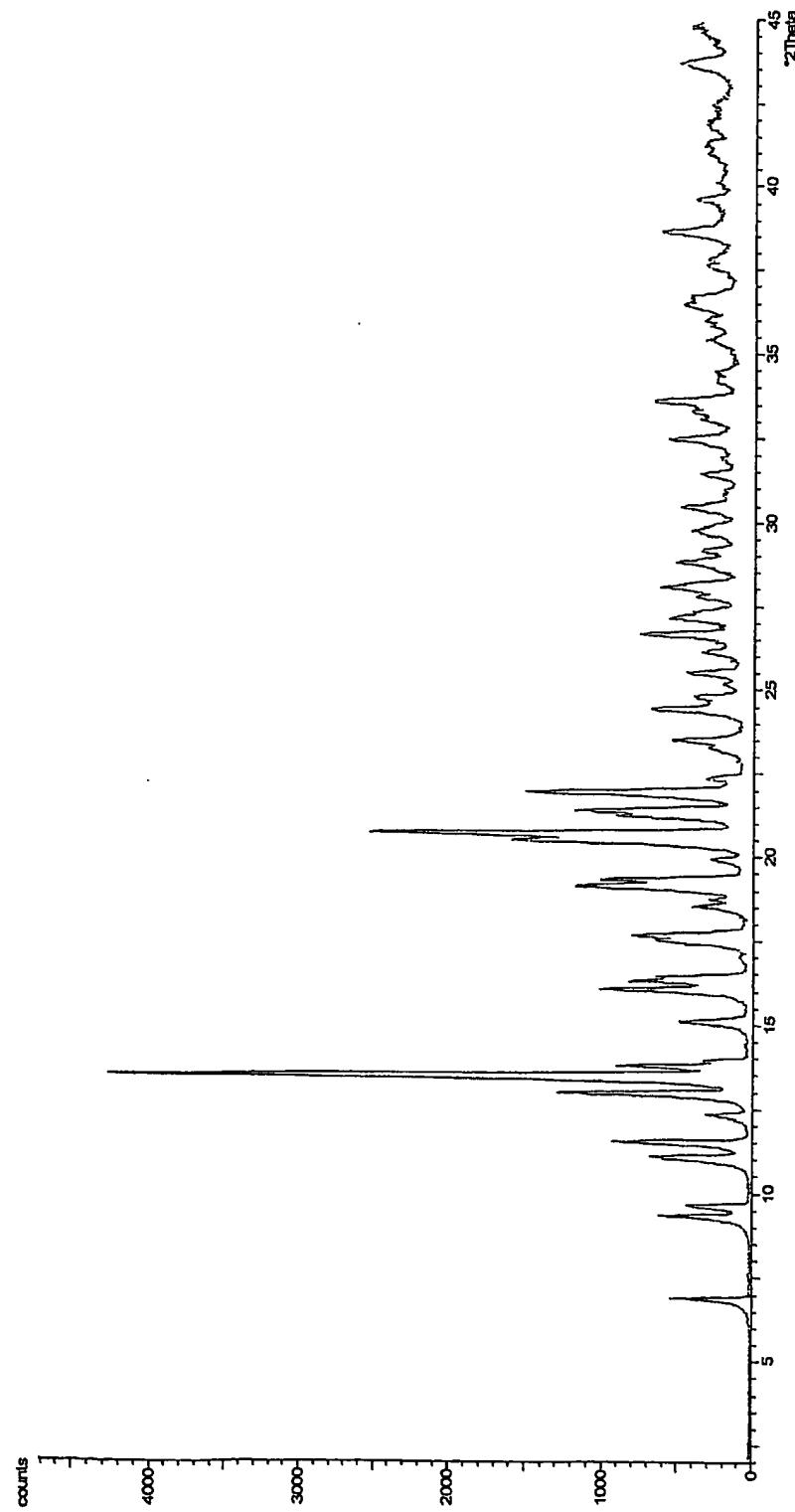


Figure 12

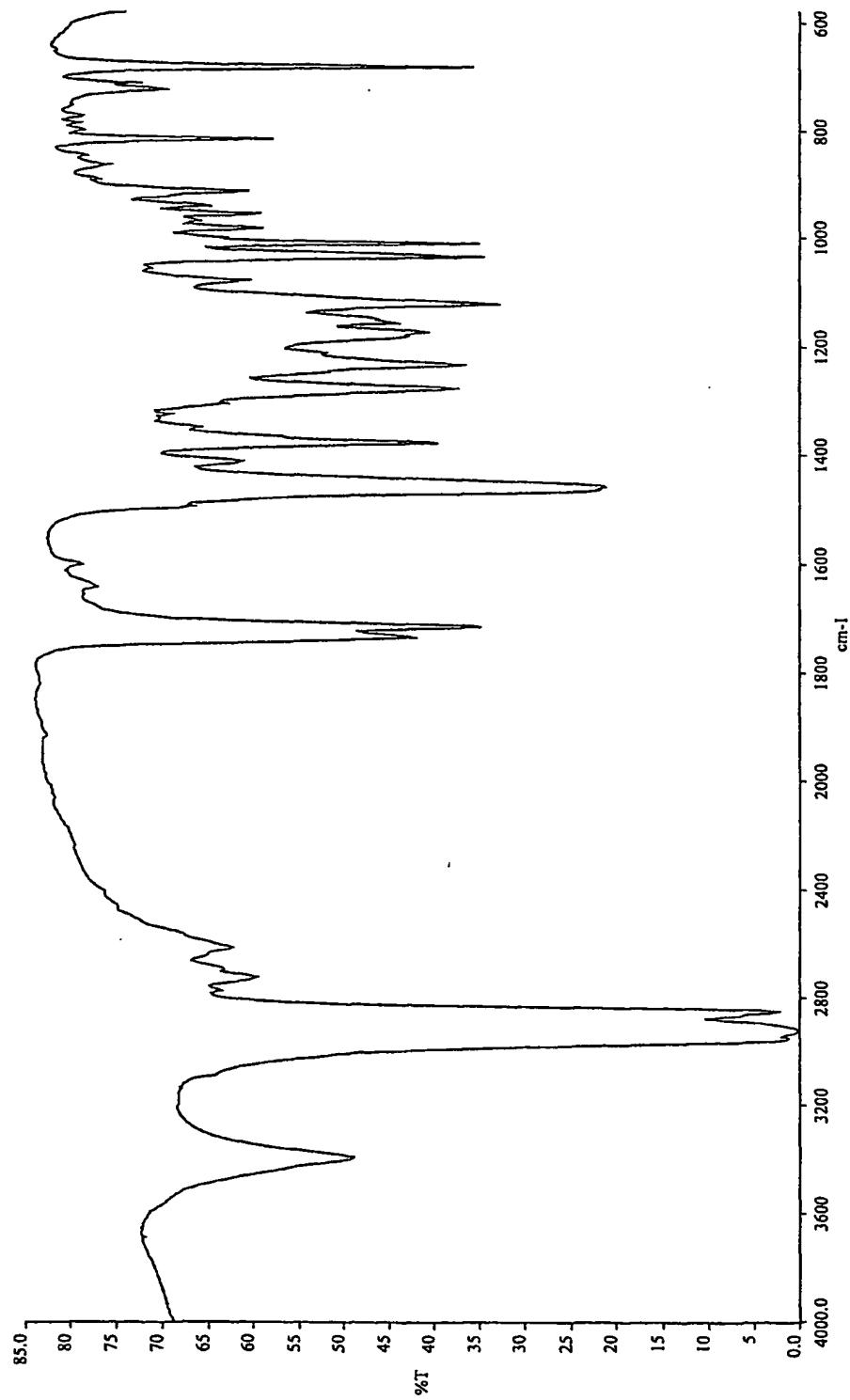


Figure 13

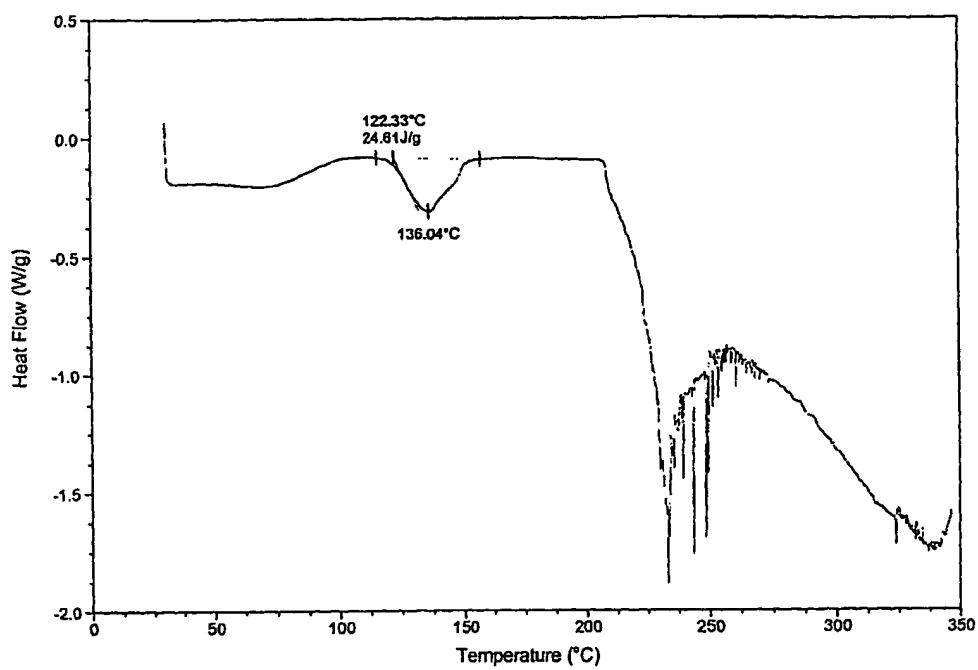


Figure 14

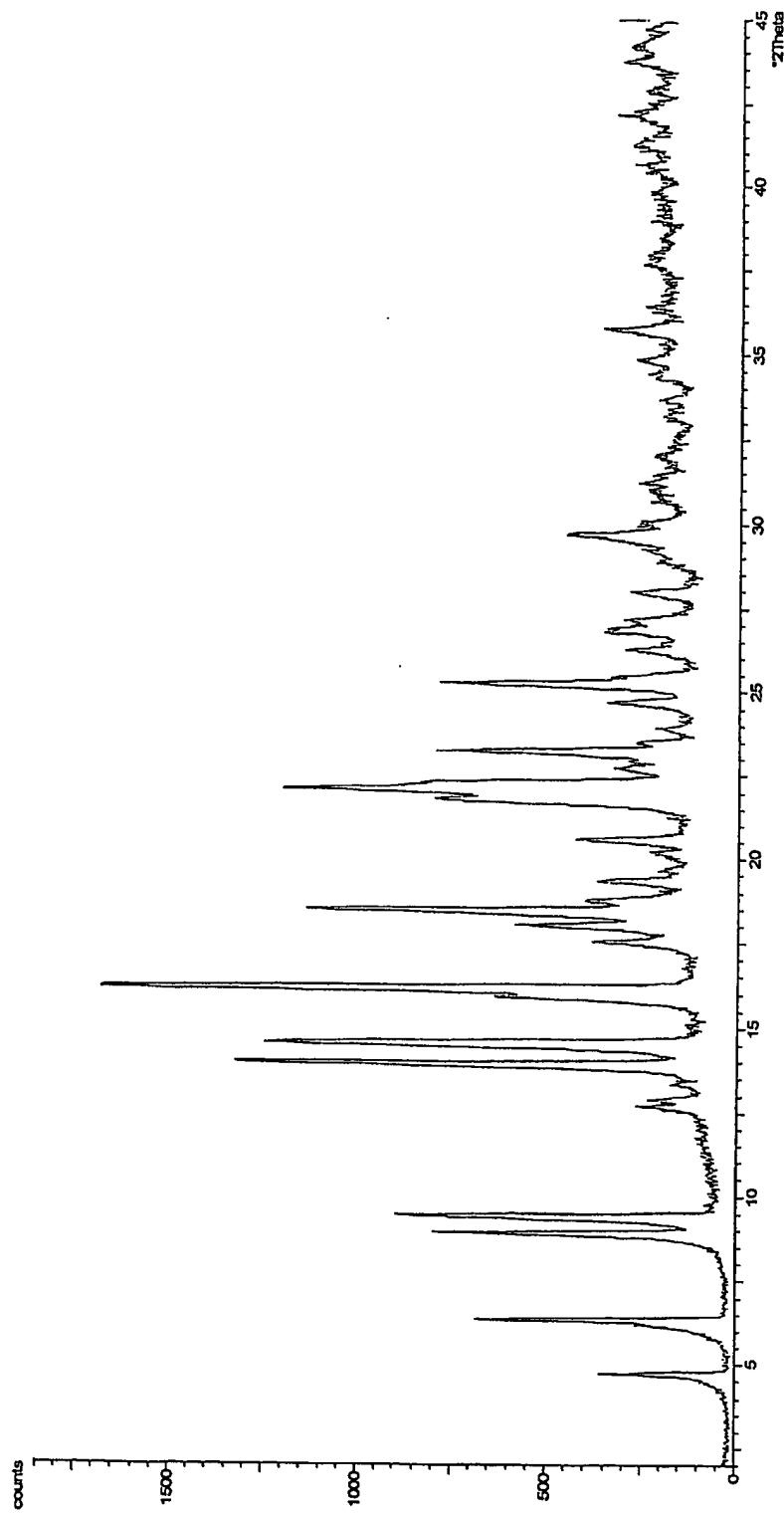


Figure 15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/28159

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61K 31/439; C07D 453/02
US CL : 514/305, 299, 325, 412, 413, 428; 546/112, 133, 183, 225, 221, 239; 548/452, 528

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 514/305, 299, 325, 412, 413, 428; 546/112, 133, 183, 225, 221, 239; 548/452, 528

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
cas-on line structural search

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,281,226 B1(BERRY et al) 28 August 2001 (28.08.2001), col. 1 ,lines 4-7; col. 2, lines 3-44; col.8, lines 18-56; col. 14 , lines 5-10; col. 13, lines 5-10; col. 41 , lines 25-29.	1-6 and 11-47

A		7-10

<input type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
*	Special categories of cited documents:		
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search 13 December 2004 (13.12.2004)	Date of mailing of the international search report 28 JAN 2005
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer <i>Taylor V. Oh</i> Taylor V. Oh Telephone No. 571-272-2717